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Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015

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metro investigates

University of Ottawa president is in pot business

Documents obtained by Metro show Allan Rock and his family are behind a business venture that is seeking Health Canada's approval to grow "premium medicinal marijuana." The family has registered two companies — RockGardens Medicinals Inc. and an Ontario numbered company.

STORY, METRONEWS



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rallying for science

POLITICS

Public scientists decry muzzling, interference with research



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Scientists in the public service say they have had enough of the Conservative government muzzling them, interfering with their research and monitoring what they can say to the media.

Some are afraid to speak out about the alleged muzzling of scientists, but Lisa Kelly, a Health Canada scientist, came out of her office on Tuesday to join a small group of her colleagues and their supporters at a union-led rally at Tunney's Pasture.

"In order to do our work we need to stand up and be heard. I can't ask people to do that unless I'm willing to stand up," Kelly

said in an interview, wearing a white lab coat outside the government complex.

"I had direct bosses who made an evidence-based decision that was overturned on ideological basis by our government."

She was referring to the decision in 2013 by the Harper government to overturn a Health Canada approval of heroin for participants in a clinical study.

She said she wanted to attend the rally to protest the "lack of respect" for science in the upper levels of government, but also to show solidarity with the Public Service Alliance of Canada, which has said it is taking the federal government to court over sick-leave changes announced earlier this month in Bill C-59.

Responding to the government scientists' rally in Ottawa, Treasury Board president Tony Clement told CBC News: "I know the unions like to get headlines ... but I'm quite confident that we are not doing the terrible things that they claim that we're doing."

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TEACHERS' STRIKE

Talks to resume with new mediator

Ontario high school teachers and the province return to the bargaining table this week as school boards try to end three local strikes by having them declared illegal.

This is the first round of negotiations under a new bargaining system the Liberal government introduced last year, separating the process into local and central talks.

The central talks between the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and the province have been stalled for weeks, but they will resume Wednesday with a new mediator.

More than 70,000 high school students have been kept from class for weeks as teachers in the Toronto-area regions of Peel and Durham and the Sudbury-area Rainbow District are on strike.

The three boards have asked the Ontario Labour Relations Board to declare the strikes illegal, arguing they are really over central issues such as class sizes and not matters being handled at the local tables.

High school teachers in Ottawa and Halton Region will begin an administrative strike Thursday. They will partially withdraw services, which means teachers won't add comments to report cards or attend staff meetings or school board meetings, and will hold some picket lines over the lunch hour. Regular school operations will continue, as will field trips and extracurricular activities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Fair' water billing system not a rate dip: Councillor



Capital Ward Coun. David Chernushenko, chair of the environment committee, spoke to reporters on Tuesday. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

UTILITIES

City looking to make up \$22M water revenue shortfall



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

The City of Ottawa may be seeking a "fair" water rate system, but that does not mean users will be paying any less to turn on the taps, cautioned an Ottawa councillor on Tuesday.

The city's environment committee approved a review of the water billing structure — something that has been a problem for several years, as the city saw a \$22-million water revenue shortfall last year. That could mean a mix of fixed-rate and consumption fees for property owners.

City treasurer Marian Simulik stressed that staff would consider "fair" payment structures that could include tax rebates for charities or vacant lots.

But College Coun. Rick Chiarelli said other taxpayers should not expect a dip in water bills, as the money to update aging infrastructure has to come from somewhere. "This system has to be designed to generate as much or more revenue as it does now," he said.

The city will also be eyeing the roughly 45,000 lots without

water meters. Those property owners do not pay for stormwater operations and infrastructure. It remains to be seen how those properties will factor in to the new billing plan.

Graham Saul, the executive director of Ecology Ottawa, told the committee the city needs to find more innovative ways to manage stormwater, while also keeping water conservation a priority.

What "makes or breaks" the city's water revenue is the summer months — June to August — adds Simulik. If it's a rainy season, then water consumption is down and the revenue takes a dive. The city is aiming for a more predictable water revenue plan.

Currently, Ottawa's rate structure is based solely on consumption — and the city is in the small percentage of the province's larger municipalities to do so.

Most of the other municipalities use a combination of a fixed rate and volumetric charge.

The city has yet to study how a fixed-rate structure would impact the average homeowner's water bill.

Of all the city's water accounts, 96 per cent are residential, but only make up 70 per cent of overall water consumption. Simulik said the review will not look at expanding the water and sewer services to rural areas.

If council approves the water billing review, ratepayers may not see their bills change until early 2017.

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Up to Low brings laughter and tears



Up to Low, an adaptation of local author Brian Doyle's first young adult novel, will make its onstage debut Thursday.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

THEATRE

Play based on Brian Doyle novel finally makes its debut



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

It was 1995 when Janet Irwin collected her first \$500 to bring *Up to Low* to life onstage.

After almost 20 years of fits and starts, the playwright's adaptation of Brian Doyle's novel is ready for its run at the Arts Court Studio from Thursday to June 6.

Set on an alley-style stage, the play takes you into a 1950s Buick Special up Mile Hill through Chelsea and to a cabin in Low, Que. You stop at bars along the way and watch Frank get a little drunker before he gets behind the wheel — it was a different time back then — while the chorus helps narrate the story of young Tommy and Baby Bridget, the girl with the Gatineau Hills green eyes.

The cast of wonky characters tell sad stories. Tommy is returning to a log cabin — a real place known to Doyle — two years after the death of his mother.

"It's that kind of Irish balance of comedy and tears," said Irwin.

She has raised more than \$11,000 through crowd-sourcing and is backed by a cast of eight actors plus three musicians, including acclaimed folk singer Ian Tamblyn.

Up to Low is Doyle's first young adult novel, published in 1982. He's turning 80 this year.

On Saturday, before the play opens to the public, Mayor Jim Watson will also declare May 23 "Brian T. Doyle Day."

Tickets for the show range from \$20 to \$35 and are available at uptolow.com.



It's that kind of Irish balance of comedy and tears.

Playwright Janet Irwin

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COURT

Assistant tells of prior 'quarrel' between Brazeau, alleged victim

The woman who was allegedly assaulted by Patrick Brazeau in 2013 apologized to him and hugged him a year earlier after a dispute between the two, the suspended senator's executive assistant testified Tuesday.

Lorraine Rochon said Brazeau called her at about 11 p.m. one night in February 2012 and asked her to come to a residence to intervene in what she called a "quarrel."

Rochon told Brazeau's trial on assault and sexual assault charges that, after a two-hour discussion, the woman apologized for hitting him and then embraced him.

Brazeau, who was kicked out of the Conservative caucus shortly after his February 2013 arrest, has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The female complainant, whose identity is subject to a publication ban, has alleged that Brazeau pushed her down some stairs, choked her, hit her head against a wall and a staircase, spat on her and sexually assaulted her.

Defence lawyer Gerard Larocque has suggested the woman started the physical confrontation that led to Brazeau's arrest — accusing her of hitting his client with her hand and a bra.



Suspended senator Patrick Brazeau arrives to court in Gatineau on Tuesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Larocque sharpened his efforts last week to shred her credibility by stating she struck Brazeau a year before the encounter that prompted his client's arrest.

The woman confirmed to the court last week that she and Brazeau met with police following an incident in February 2012, but she flatly denied hitting him.

The trial is taking place in Gatineau before a judge alone.

Brazeau is expected to eventually testify in his own

defence.

He is scheduled to stand trial next March, before a judge alone, on charges of fraud and breach of trust in connection with his Senate expense claims. Brazeau has pleaded not guilty to those charges.

And he faces charges related to allegedly being behind the wheel of a car while impaired in October and for possessing a weapon in breach of his bail conditions. He pleaded not guilty to those charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Brewery-goers enjoy a taste on one of Brew Donkey's tours. CONTRIBUTED

Local beer tours now in limbo

ALCOHOL

Brew Donkey has received notice from travel council



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Trouble is brewing for Ottawa-based beer delivery service Brew Donkey — not for delivering beer but for delivering people to the city's breweries.

The company received a notice from the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO) claiming that their tours are illegal until the company

registers as a travel agent.

Instead of cancelling the tours, owner Bradley Campeau is offering them for free until he can dispute the notice. He believes Brew Donkey falls under an exception to the law.

"I don't want to stop offering my services. I don't want to lose that traction of people coming to my website, expecting fun times and expecting to visit a brewery," he said.

To make up for the lost income, around \$85 a ticket, Campeau is trying to raise \$15,000 on the crowdfunding website Indiegogo.

"We're just really hoping that the current situation with TICO comes to head in a nice way," he said.

OTTAWA RIVER

Tanks may not stop overflow



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Despite a multimillion-dollar investment, the new holding tanks in the Ottawa River may not be able to keep all of the raw sewage from spilling into the waterway.

The news came during a city staff report to the environment committee on Tuesday.

But given the unpredictability of storms and potential mass flooding, committee chair Coun. David Chernushenko said he was not surprised.

"There's nothing you can do to design for (storms)," he said.

"You have to hope they don't happen or they certainly don't have to happen often."

Last April, the federal government announced a \$62.09-million investment

“There's nothing you can do to design for (storms).”

Coun. David Chernushenko

in the Ottawa River Action Plan for new underground tunnels to store sewage overflow that is currently polluting the waterway.

IN BRIEF

City to appeal decision on Centretown design plan

The city has announced it will challenge the OMB's April 29 decision on the Centretown Community Design Plan.

The decision suggests there should be "flexibility" in the city's design plans with regards to building heights.

The city will appeal the OMB decision to the Divisional Court. METRO

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IN BRIEF

Crews execute pair of water rescues

Emergency crews were kept busy on Ottawa waterways Tuesday after rescuing people in two separate distress calls. The first incident happened at 10:30 a.m. on the Rideau Canal after a cyclist fell into the water by the Colonel By Drive path.

Paramedics say another

cyclist and a jogger saved the man's life by freeing his feet, which had been caught in the bike pedals.

Fire crews also responded to Dow's Lake just before 4:30 p.m. for boaters in distress due to high winds. Firefighters rescued 11 people who were in three paddle boats, one dingy and a kayak. METRO



Taking aim at illegal tobacco



Retired police officer Gary Grant and Richard McMullen, president of Crime Stoppers for the National Capital Area, launch an anti-contraband tobacco campaign in Ottawa on Tuesday. JOE LOFARO/METRO

CONTRABAND

Crime Stoppers joins campaign launched by retired officer



Joe Lofaro
Metro|Ottawa

Selling contraband tobacco is a “cash cow” for organized crime groups, but profiting from illegal cigarettes is anything but a victimless crime, says a retired police officer.

Gary Grant spent 39 years on the Toronto Police Service and is now the head of the National

Coalition Against Contraband Tobacco (NCACT).

He launched the campaign this week with five new ads around downtown Ottawa. The effort is designed to raise awareness about how the sale of illegal cigarettes can fuel organized crime in Canada.

The coalition said Ontario is the worst province in Canada for contraband tobacco, with about one in three cigarettes sold here being contraband.

To make things worse, Grant said some of the 175 gangs

across Canada are targeting youth.

“They don’t care. They don’t ask for ID. They sell a 10-year-old a baggie of 200 cigarettes that might cost the cost of a movie ticket,” he said while standing across the street from the Ottawa courthouse on Tuesday.

The corner of Elgin and Lisgar streets is one of five locations where the campaign ads will be posted.

Viewers will notice the phone number for Crime Stoppers, which is partnering with the

“**They sell a 10-year-old a baggie of 200 cigarettes that might cost the cost of a movie ticket.**”

Gary Grant

+ TAX REVENUE

Contraband market costs Ontario \$1B, says Grant

Grant estimates that about \$1 billion in tax revenue is lost per year in Ontario due to the sale of contraband cigarettes.

“That money should be going to legitimate government projects,” said Grant. “Instead, it’s lying in the pockets of criminals.”

JOE LOFARO/METRO

NCACT on the campaign. Residents are urged to call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) to report instances of illegal tobacco being sold.

U of O president involved in medical-marijuana business

INDUSTRY

Allan Rock's wife says they are 'not close' to a licence



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

University of Ottawa president Allan Rock and his family are behind a budding new business venture — now all they need is a licence from the federal government to grow medical marijuana.

Corporate documents obtained by Metro show Rock, his wife Deborah Hanscom and their two children have started a business called RockGarden Medicinals Inc. On its website, the company says it aims to become “a trusted supplier of premium medicinal marijuana.”

But before they can do that, Health Canada needs to grant them a licence to grow medical marijuana — something Hanscom, who is the company's chief executive officer, says is still up in the air.

“Right now we're not close to having a licence to produce, and there's other applicants in the community in our position,” she said.

Hanscom, who uses medical marijuana to treat chronic pain, says obtaining a licence is taking



Allan Rock and his family are behind a business that is trying to get a licence to sell medicinal marijuana. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

longer than expected because Health Canada is still getting its rules and regulations sorted out.

“Everyone needs to keep a site available; there's a cost to keeping people who will be your professionals, keeping shareholders interested in the uncertainty,” she said. “It's not easy.”

That has left the company in limbo. “We're just working through it,” Hanscom said.

The family incorporated two companies in 2013 and 2014, records show.

One of them — an Ontario numbered company — lists Rock

as its president and one of its directors. Until March 2014, that numbered company was called RockGarden Medicinals Inc.

His name does not appear on the corporate filings of the



It's been a great experience, but it's still a real work in progress.

Deborah Hanscom

second company, RockGarden Medicinals (2014) Inc.

Both companies list 259 McLeod St. in downtown Ottawa as their business address. Property

records show Rock and Hanscom bought the property in March 2014.

Hanscom says the numbered company owns the building where RockGarden Medicinals

hopes to eventually grow medicinal marijuana.

The other company handles RockGarden Medicinals' business operations, she said.

Hanscom says her husband — who held the justice and health portfolios in the Liberal government of former prime minister Jean Chrétien — is not involved in the marijuana-growing side of the business.

“He's not involved in the business, but other members of our family are involved; that's where the name comes from,” she said.

“I, together with one of my kids who went through Algonquin horticulture, and my daughter who is also a lawyer, we decided to go down this road.”

Rock — whose term as

president and vice-chancellor of the University of Ottawa comes to an end next year — did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

Hanscom says she has enjoyed the experience of starting a medical-marijuana business, even if it never gets off the ground.

“I don't know if the yellow-brick road will ever have an ending,” she said. “It's been a great experience but it's still a real work in progress.”

Health Canada has yet to respond to a request for comment.

Medical marijuana has come into the spotlight in Ottawa recently.

Health Canada has granted licences to two companies in Gatineau and Smiths Falls, which have begun to grow and distribute medical marijuana to licensed Ottawa residents.

Then there's BuzzOn, the recently shut-down “vapour lounge” in Vanier. The City of Ottawa slapped the business with a \$3,000 fine and a cease-and-desist order last week over building-code violations.

“I think it's the last thing the city needs and certainly the last thing that part of Vanier needs,” Mayor Jim Watson said shortly after the lounge opened.

That prompted outcry from medical-marijuana users in the city, who say they have a legal right to medicate in public. The owner of BuzzOn has said he wants to reopen the business as soon as possible.

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Quaid released after arrest

MONTREAL

Actor had been hiding out after being denied residency

Actor Randy Quaid, who once claimed he was being hunted by "Hollywood star-whackers," was ordered released from a Montreal immigration detention centre Tuesday following more than two years of living under the radar.

Quaid, 64, was nabbed last Thursday in Montreal, where he's lived since January 2013, a month after finding out his bid for permanent residency in Canada had been denied.

He became the subject of a nationwide arrest warrant after he stopped checking in with the Canada Border Services Agency.

An Immigration and Refugee Board member authorized Quaid's release Tuesday after his father-in-law agreed to post a \$10,000 bond.

It was not immediately known if the money was handed over.

Quaid must abide by a number of other conditions, includ-

+ NO PASSPORT

Quaid also doesn't have a valid U.S. passport; he and his wife announced late last year they are suing U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and the State Department to recover passports the government revoked three years ago. A document filed Tuesday suggests the U.S. government is willing to give Quaid a temporary passport.

ing checking in with border-agency officials within 48 hours of his release and then every two weeks. He must tell them if he leaves Canada, and he can't work without a valid work permit. The actor is not admissible in Canada and could ask for a pre-removal risk assessment, which could prolong his stay. He has not done so.

Quaid and Evi, his Canadian wife of 25 years, fled the United States in 2010, saying they were the victims of persecution.

The Quaid family arrived in Canada with a string of legal problems, but during Tuesday's hearing

were told that all of the charges against them were dismissed except for one — a burglary charge which Quaid claims is identity theft.

Sporting a massive beard and shoulder-length grey hair, Quaid apologized and indicated he's ready to return to the United States to deal with the case and ultimately return to Canada.

Quaid said he was devastated by the ruling against his residency bid in December 2012 and feared being separated from his wife, whose father is Canadian and enabled her to gain her citizenship.

A border-agency official saw Quaid coming in and out of a residence in Montreal and police were asked to break down the door when no one would answer.

Board member Dianne Tordorf said that Quaid posed a flight risk given that he has failed to follow previous conditions, but said she doesn't believe his detention is necessary.

Quaid is the older brother of actor Dennis Quaid and is perhaps best-known for his roles in films such as National Lampoon's Vacation and Independence Day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Randy Quaid, in this image shot off of a closed circuit TV monitor, appears at an immigration refugee board hearing in Montreal on Tuesday. SIDHARTHA BANERJEE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Péladeau tackles economic issues at national assembly

Head offices and job cuts were on Pierre Karl Péladeau's mind during his first questions as Opposition leader in the national assembly on Tuesday. Péladeau, who became leader of the PQ's on Friday, asked Couillard if he plans to intervene to better protect the province's head offices. The premier responded that Quebec's economic plan has begun to work and will continue to be effective.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Couple bring adopted boy home from Pakistan

Waheeda and Ashfaq Afridi arrived in Saskatoon on the weekend with their son, Ajjab. The Afridis adopted the boy, a nephew, when he was born in 2010. Pakistan approved the arrangement but Canada denied a permanent residence application. Last November, the appeal division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada granted Ajjab a sponsorship visa, but the paperwork took several more months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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WIND

Canada's economic future still unsure

BANK OF CANADA

Rise in loonie and price of oil contributing to shaky situation

The recent rebound in oil prices and the exchange rate is adding to uncertainty about the direction of the country's economy, Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz said Tuesday.

Poloz told a business crowd in Prince Edward Island that the central bank will have to carefully monitor how companies and households react to such shifts and other financial developments over the coming months.

"Of course, I must underscore how uncertain the outlook is," Poloz said in a speech for the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Poloz has said his fingers are crossed that the economy — still hurting from the late-2014 oil slump — will bounce back



Recent events make it clear that we live in a very uncertain world.

Stephen Poloz, Bank of Canada governor

in the second quarter after he predicted zero growth for the first three months of this year.

But the governor pointed to recent increases in both oil prices and, to a lesser degree, the Canadian dollar as sources of further uncertainty.

The price of a barrel of oil recently climbed above \$60 US after dipping below \$50 as recently as March. But it's still far below its summer of 2014 high of about \$107.

The loonie dropped Tuesday to 81.75 cents but stayed above the 80-cent mark. It dipped close to 78 cents a couple of months ago.

Cheaper crude prices have a

negative effect on Canada's huge energy sector, which is offset somewhat by lower pump prices that help consumers.

A lower loonie boosts revenues for exporters and helps them penetrate foreign markets.

"Recent events make it clear that we live in a very uncertain world," Poloz said.

Among those uncertainties is the performance of the United States economy, which Poloz has been counting on to provide a major boost for Canada. So far this year, the U.S. has fallen short of expectations.

Following his speech, Poloz said he still expects the American economy to start accelerating in the second half of the year, saying, "it's still very early days" in trying to determine what the second quarter might look like.

Poloz blamed temporary negatives, such as poor weather, for the slow start to 2015 in the U.S. He also said American consumers appear to be hanging on to some of the savings they accumulated from lower gas prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz spoke to the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday about Canada's economic future. PATRICK DOYLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH

Juice might be getting canned from Canada's Food Guide

It appears that Health Canada may be considering a squeeze on fruit juice as a healthy dietary choice.

Under Canada's Food Guide, it's recommended that children and adults consume up to 10 servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Half a cup (125 milli-

litres) of 100 per cent fruit juice is among the recommended examples of a serving.

But obesity experts have long argued that fruit juices should be removed from Canada's dietary bible because of their high sugar content and the number of pound-packing calories they

contain.

The Food Guide came under attack at a recent obesity conference in Toronto, with some of the most vociferous criticism aimed at the inclusion of fruit juice as a healthy alternative to whole fruits. The director general of the federal office of

nutrition policy and promotion reportedly hinted during that meeting that Health Canada would be changing its stance on fruit juices.

"You won't be seeing that anymore, and there will be a fair number of new materials coming out in the next few months,"

Hasan Hutchinson is quoted as saying by the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Health Canada would not confirm Tuesday whether the inclusion of fruit juice in the Food Guide is under review or if a decision has already been made to remove it as a recom-

mended option.

Dr. Yoni Freedhoff, medical director of the Bariatric Medical Institute, likened a serving of juice to a glass of water to which "five teaspoons of sugar are added, plus a few smatterings of vitamins."

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COMEDY

Dick Assman recalls 15 minutes of fame

An 81-year-old Saskatchewan gas jockey still has vivid memories of stepping out on David Letterman's stage.

It was 1995 and Dick Assman found himself at the apex of "Assmania," a Letterman-fueled craze surrounding the Regina man's unusual name.

"When I went on the stage, that was something else," Assman said Tuesday, recalling his trip to New York to meet a throng of screaming studio audience members. "You walk on there, everybody is hollering."

"It was great, everything was first class. I enjoyed it."

"Assmania" all started with a local ad in a Regina newspaper explaining that Assman, who worked at a Petro-Canada gas station in Regina, would be moving locations.

Letterman, who retires from his late show this week, pointed to the hilarity of Assman's name

and the short comedy bit snowballed into a recurring joke.

Assman notes the correct pronunciation of his German name is OSS-man, but he didn't mind playing along with the joke.

"Nobody really said anything before, but now they do," he said with a laugh. "It's OK with me. If you want to have fun with it, go ahead."

Ray Assman said the joke led to international celebrity status for his older brother. The name was emblazoned on T-shirts, pens and bumper stickers.

"Every time you mention it to him, his eyes light up," he said. "Even to this day, people still ask me how he made out with it."

On a trip to Las Vegas, Ray Assman remembers a border security guard asking him if he knew the Letterman guest when he saw his passport.

But Ray Assman noted that the fame never went to his brother's head.

Dick Assman, who still pumps gas at a Petro-Canada station in Regina, said he hasn't kept any of the merchandise featuring his name.

"I'm still doing the same thing I did before. I've got the same friends. I'm still working."

He added that he wants to wish Letterman well in retirement. The Late Show with David Letterman will air its last show on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS



When I went on the stage, that was something else ... You walk on there, everybody is hollering.

Dick Assman remembers the David Letterman stage



Dick Assman smiles at a South Albert St. Petro-Canada gas station in Regina, Saskatchewan on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS



MEAT-LABELLING U.S. LAWMAKERS ATTEMPT TO AVOID TRADE WAR

Veterinarian Doug Reid bottle-feeds an orphaned calf at his ranch near Cremona, Alta. on Tuesday. Canada will likely be able to impose retaliatory tariffs against the United States by late summer or early fall, if Washington doesn't repeal its country of origin labelling rules. A group of U.S. lawmakers, however, are attempting to prevent a dispute over meat labels from escalating into a continental trade war where tariffs pummel U.S. wine, chocolate, cereal, jewelry and frozen orange juice.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

OPP to probe Mounties' handling of gun registry

SLUGLINE

RCMP alleged to have illegally destroyed records

Allegations of RCMP wrongdoing related to the illegal destruction of long-gun registry records are under investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police.

It's the latest twist in an unprecedented battle between the Conservative government and an independent officer of parliament whose job is to safeguard Canadians' access to government records.

Information commissioner Suzanne Legault issued a special

report last week revealing she'd recommended in March that charges be laid against the RCMP for the destruction of long-gun registry records that were part of an active investigation.

The Harper government responded by retroactively rewriting the law, backdating the changes and burying the amendment in an omnibus budget bill it introduced earlier this month. Legault calls that a "perilous precedent" that could be used by governments to retroactively rewrite laws on everything from spending scandals to electoral fraud.

While the Conservatives press ahead with an omnibus bill that will retroactively erase the offence from the books, Justice Minister Peter MacKay's office has confirmed that it sent



It doesn't matter what party you're in, the issue of being able to retroactively change laws to protect a government agency or department ... would set a very, very dangerous precedent.

New Democrat Charlie Angus, of the committee on access to information, privacy and ethics

Legault's findings to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada last week, which in turn handed the file over to an investigative agency.

"It will be looked at by a senior investigator," Sgt. Peter Leon of the OPP said, confirming an investigation will take place.

However, that doesn't mean charges will be laid. The public

prosecutor's office would only say that it has passed on the file.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said the Mounties were just respecting the will of Parliament when they destroyed gun records that were subject to an active access-to-information request and investigation by the information commissioner.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ENVIRONMENT

Canada's emissions targets unlikely to impress

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's new greenhouse gas emissions targets may not win him any raves at next month's G7 summit, but it could help him stave off a bit of criticism.

Harper is expected to attend the June leaders' summit where his German hosts will focus on climate change as France prepares to host a major environmental summit in December.

Canada has faced international criticism for being a climate-change laggard, but last week the Harper government announced it would aim to reduce green-

house gas emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

For now, the United States is saying it wants see more before it passes judgment.

Barry Rabe, a climate policy expert at the University of Michigan, says Canada's target appears more ambitious than expected, but is still not enough to win plaudits in foreign capitals.

The target may be an indication that Canada is sensitive to some of the past international criticism it has faced because it was higher than expected, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ GREENHOUSE GASES

A look at what others are saying about their climate change targets.

- **Canada:** Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq says Canada plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

- **United States:** In a submission to the climate conference, Washington has repeated a pledge to reduce

emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2025.

- **Russia:** Moscow uses 1990 as its baseline and says it aims to reduce emissions to 70 to 75 per cent of 1990 levels by 2030.

- **Europe:** The European Union says it intends to cut emissions by at least 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ISIL

Iraq responds to capture of Ramadi

As it moves to try to reverse the stunning loss of Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's largest Sunni province, the Shiite-led government is hamstrung by the sectarian politics it has failed to overcome ever since the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) began its rampage more than a year ago.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi vowed Tuesday to arm Sunni tribesmen to help retake Ramadi, a plan the United States has encouraged to better empower the minority community in the fight to defend their cities and to reduce their support for the Sunni extremists.

But the pledge met immediate skepticism from Sunnis, given that similar promises after ISIL militants seized the northern city of Mosul last summer were barely implemented.

It also met quick resistance

from Shiite rivals within al-Abadi's own government, who oppose arming Sunnis.

At the same time, the government was rallying Iranian-backed Shiite militiamen to join the offensive, raising the prospect of dangerous frictions in a country that was nearly torn to pieces by bloody Shiite-Sunni violence from 2006-2007. Though the Shiite militiamen have been crucial to reversing other losses to ISIL militants, they have also been accused of abuses against Sunni residents of those areas.

Around 3,000 Shiite militiamen have deployed near Ramadi, most in the Habbaniya military base and the town of Khaldiya, east of the city. Others deployed on routes from Anbar province toward southern Iraq to prevent any ISIL attempt to advance on Shiite holy sites there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMTRAK DERAILMENT

Unions want another crew member on board

Railroad unions are urging Amtrak to put a second crew member in locomotives in the wake of a deadly derailment last week in Philadelphia.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and SMART Transportation say an engineer and an additional crew member would serve as a check and balance on each other.

Engineer Brandon Bostian was alone in the locomotive of Train 188 when it derailed May 12, killing eight people

and injuring about 200.

Investigators are looking into why the train was going more than double the 50 mph limit around a sharp curve.

The unions say Amtrak hasn't had a second crew member in the cab of Northeast Corridor trains since 1983, after Congress ended the requirement.

Also Tuesday, a lawyer for the lead conductor on the train says his client suffered a broken neck and broken back. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Texas authorities had warned of gang violence

A meeting of motorcycle clubs ended in a deadly shootout after two rival gangs faced off at a Waco restaurant, an explosion of what Texas authorities had warned earlier in the month was growing animosity between the groups.

The Texas Department of Public Safety's Joint Information Center issued a bulletin May 1 that cautioned authorities about increasing violence between the Bandidos and the Cossacks, Dallas TV station WFAA reported Monday. The county sheriff has said all nine people who were killed in the melee Sunday were part of those two groups. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Submariner apprehended by British Navy

Britain's Royal Navy says a submariner who publicly challenged the safety of the country's nuclear fleet has been apprehended.

A spokesman said Tuesday that Able Seaman William McNeilly is in military police custody at a facility in Scotland. McNeilly had been missing for several days since he released a damning 18-page report on the WikiLeaks website that contained stark warnings about safety and security lapses in Britain's weapons program.

McNeilly called the aging Trident weapons program a potential disaster and said it could easily be infiltrated by terrorists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An Italian Coast Guard ship carrying migrants arrives at Pozzallo's harbor near Ragusa, Sicily, Italy, Tuesday. European Union nations approved plans Monday for a naval operation that will go after the human trafficking networks that are sending thousands of migrants weekly across the Mediterranean toward Europe or to their deaths. CARMELO IMBESI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU plan risky: Experts

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Plan aims to systematically destroy vessels of smugglers

Experts say the European Union's plan to disrupt the business of human traffickers and destroy their boats in the Mediterranean is a short-term deterrent that is likely to be dangerous, costly and tough to implement.

Faced with a rising death toll of migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean to get into Europe, the EU wants to launch a military operation next month to "destroy the business model" of the smugglers to coincide with the migrant high season. The operation will progressively include surveying smuggling routes, searching and boarding

possible smuggling boats and eventually, possibly destroying those boats.

However, experts voiced concern Tuesday about the plan's real impact on smugglers — saying it could be just a media show to demonstrate EU determination to stop these perilous sea voyages.

The operation is still in the planning stage and requires a UN Security Council resolution and some consent from Libya, the major departure site for smugglers, for its full implementation to be legally sound. It will involve European navy ships, drones and satellite imagery.

"Having this aggressive military action is really sound and fury," said Tuesday Reitano from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. "It's going to cost a lot, it's going to look very impressive, with naval boats patrolling up and down, but it's certainly not go-

ing to have a long-term impact."

According to a planning document, the aim is "to disrupt the business model of the smugglers" by systematically destroying their main assets: boats.

Some of the simple boats though, many of them inflatable, might be easily replaced. Others have been designed to be abandoned, like the cargo ship programed to ram into Italy's shore.

But some may be tougher to replace, raising costs and convincing fishermen to no longer make their vessels available to smugglers.

The EU is under tremendous pressure to act. More than 170,000 people used Libya as a jumping off point last year to reach Europe. The dangerous but financially rewarding trafficking enterprise accounts for about 80 per cent of all the migrants smuggled into Europe.

More than 10,000 people have

+ SMUGGLERS

Authorities won't seek charges of illegal detention against two alleged smugglers in connection with a Mediterranean shipwreck believed to have killed more than 800 migrants, a prosecutor said Tuesday. Survivors of the tragedy initially said the smugglers had locked hundreds of migrants in the hold, but prosecutor Giovanni Salvi said authorities have since determined that the doors were closed but not locked.

been plucked from the sea in recent weeks. The International Organization for Migration estimates that 1,820 migrants have died or gone missing on the sea route to Europe this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Republicans admit Iraq was a mistake

It's perhaps fitting that a member of the Bush family has achieved in a few days something that seemed unattainable for years: getting Republicans to declare that the 2003 invasion of Iraq was, after all, a big mistake.

Republican presidential candidates have been lining up to call it an error.

Ted Cruz, Scott Walker, Marco Rubio, George Pataki, Rick Santorum, Rand Paul, radio host Laura Ingraham — every one

took a position that would have been anathema within the party a few years ago.

It was all triggered by an apparent flub by Jeb Bush.

The presidential hopeful, ex-Florida governor and brother of the president who attacked Iraq was asked on Fox News last week whether he would have invaded, knowing what he knows today.

Yes, he replied.

He tried to correct the record a day later. He said he'd misin-

terpreted the question and had based his answer on how he felt in 2003 — when the U.S. government said Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and an invasion would be quick and easy. By week's end, he settled on a final answer: no.

He was pounded with criticism in the meantime — largely from his own side. Ingraham, a popular conservative radio host, said: "You can't still think that going into Iraq, now, as a sane human

being, was the right thing to do." Other presidential aspirants had no problem answering the Iraq question.

"Of course not," Cruz, the conservative favourite from Texas, told CNN. "I mean, the entire predicate for the war against Iraq was the intelligence that showed they had weapons of mass destruction and that there was a real risk they might use them ...

"We now know that intelligence was false." THE CANADIAN PRESS

GEORGIA

Moscow a constant 'threat'

Russia is poised to use its armed forces to expand further into former Soviet states, Georgia's president said Tuesday, calling on the West never to accept any Russian aggression.

Russia's 2008 war with neighbouring Georgia and its seizure of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 showed that Moscow is ready to exploit any instability in countries it still considers in its sphere of influence, President Giorgi Margvelashvili said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"They are the fastest and the first to bring in their tanks," he said, speaking near-fluent English.

"So that's why we can say that half of the Eurasian continent is living under constant threat. If they have some kind of unstable environment in their country, their sovereign country, the neighbour will be quick to solve the problem through Kalashnikov(s)."

Georgia, which aspires one day to join the 28-nation European Union and NATO, is a member of the EU's Eastern Partnership, which holds its annual summit this week in Riga, Latvia. Other members are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

About 300 U.S. troops are in Georgia this month holding joint exercises, and NATO is opening a training centre in Georgia later this year. Georgia has been a reliable contributor of troops to NATO-led operations, including campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Margvelashvili said Georgia still feels the military threat from Russia after losing 20 per cent of its territory to Russian-supported separatists after the 2008 war. Russia has border guards and troops stationed in the breakaway territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Just as in Georgia in 2008, Margvelashvili said, Russia exploited instability in Ukraine following the ouster of a Russia-friendly president to seize Crimea in March 2014 and foment an armed rebellion in Ukraine's Russian-speaking east.

The president warned if there were not a stronger condemnation from the West, the pattern could be repeated in other countries along Russia's border.

"What we are hoping to see is a more stronger, principled message that this is unacceptable — and this will stay unacceptable even after the ceasefire (in eastern Ukraine)," Margvelashvili said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wounded soldiers proof Russia is at war: Ukraine

DENIAL

Moscow says any fighters in Donbass area are volunteers

Lonely and hurting, two men lie in narrow beds in a Kyiv hospital as controversy swirls around them.

The men say they are Russian soldiers who were captured and wounded while on active duty in the rebellious east. Ukrainian authorities say they are definitive proof that Russia is at war in Ukraine, and Moscow hotly denies the claims.

Representatives of Amnesty International and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which has shepherded a shaky ceasefire in eastern Ukraine, visited the men Tuesday and found them apparently in reasonable condition.

"I got professional medical aid, surgery. To my relatives, I want to say everything is fine with me, I'm alive and well,"

BACKGROUND

What will happen to Russian soldiers?

It remains unclear what measures Moscow will take for the two hospitalized men. Ukrainian Security Service spokesman Markiyan Lubkivskiy said that as of Tuesday, "we did not get any request from the Kremlin or the Russian Federation about captured soldiers."



Sgt. Alexander Alexandrov, left, and Capt. Yevgeny Yerofeyev of the Russian special forces lie in military hospital beds, in Kyiv, Monday. The two wounded Russian soldiers say they were captured while fighting in war-torn eastern Ukraine as Moscow once again firmly denied any involvement in the fighting. MARKIYAN LUBKIVSKIY FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

said one, who identified himself as Yevgeny Yerofeyev, a captain in the Russian army.

"I'm missing my family and relatives so much," the other, Sgt. Alexander Alexandrov, told reporters who accompanied the international representatives.

In video statements posted by the Ukrainian Security Service, the men say they were taking part in a reconnaissance operation in the Luhansk region Saturday when they were fired on, wounded and captured.

Both say they were members of an army brigade based in the Russian city of Togliatti and had been deployed in Ukraine for more than a month.

Smirnov said he was part of a battalion of 220 soldiers.

Throughout the year-long fighting in eastern Ukraine in which at least 6,100 people have died, Russia has consistently denied assertions from Kyiv and the West that Moscow is providing soldiers and equipment to back up the pro-Russia rebels.

The statements by Yerofeyev and Alexandrov directly challenge that denial.

"We're dealing with real soldiers of the armed forces of the Russian Federation," said Ukrainian Security Service spokesman Markiyan Lubkivskiy.

Both the Kremlin and the Russian Defence Ministry reject the assertion that Yerofeyev and Alexandrov are Russian soldiers.



A Defence Ministry spokesman said Monday that they were former soldiers; Russia has said that any Russians fighting in Ukraine are there only as volunteers.

Amnesty International's Ukraine spokesman, Bogdan Ovcharuk, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying the two men have asked to see the Russian consul.

But no consular visit has been reported.

Pavel Felgenhauer, a Russian military analyst, suggested that Russia may try to work out an

exchange for the two.

Ukraine has repeatedly called for the release of Nadezhda Savchenko, a military officer jailed in Russia for nearly a year on charges that she aided a mortar attack that killed two Russian journalists in Ukraine.

Felgenhauer also told The Associated Press that "The only person who could really make a decision to declassify any Russian involvement in Donbass (eastern Ukraine) is President Vladimir Putin."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We're dealing with real soldiers of the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

Markiyan Lubkivskiy, Ukrainian Security Service

THAILAND

Vote to be held on new constitution

Thailand's military government on Tuesday approved holding a referendum on the newly drafted constitution, the prime minister said, but he indicated that the decision could delay a general election.

The move to amend the interim charter comes after calls by several sides, including the new charter's drafters, to allow the public to have their say on whether they approve of it.

Critics say the newly drafted constitution is aimed at

preventing a political comeback by former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was deposed in a 2006 coup after being accused of corruption and disrespect for the king.

The military abolished an earlier constitution after it took over power in a May 2014 coup, when it deposed Thaksin's sister Yingluck Shinawatra as prime minister, and the government operates under a temporary charter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

European countries synch laws to stem terrorism

European governments agreed Tuesday to synchronize their laws to bar citizens from going abroad to fight for the Islamic State group and other extremists. A document signed by foreign ministers from the 47-nation Council of Europe requires countries to outlaw taking part in terrorist groups, receiving terrorist training or travelling abroad to engage in terrorism. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ANTI-DEPORTATION

Protesters push for immigrants' rights

Immigrants and advocates rallied on Tuesday in cities across the United States to push for a reprieve from deportation that has been blocked by a lawsuit.

The demonstrations aimed to mark the day when immigrants in the country illegally who are parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents would have been able to start applying for work permits and protection from deportation.

The program, announced last year by President Barack Obama, was put on hold after a coalition of 26 states sued.

Events were held in cities spanning from Miami to Denver in support of the programs aimed at protecting as many as 5 million people.

In New York, about 100 people attended a demonstration, including 41-year-old

Ecuadorian Lucia Freire. The mother of two Americans said she was counting on Obama's program to be able to drive and travel in the country where she has lived for a decade.

"I feel frustrated," she said, "I feel like no one supports us, the immigrants."

A handful of critics mounted a counter protest, where immigration enforcement proponent Joanna Marzullo blamed immigrants for using their children to gain permission to remain in the country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



I feel like no one supports us.

Lucia Freire, mother of two Americans

CRIME

Prostitute pleads guilty in drug death

A California prostitute charged with killing a Google executive with an overdose of heroin aboard his yacht pleaded guilty Tuesday to involuntary manslaughter and administering drugs.

A Santa Cruz County Superior Court judge sentenced Alix Tichelman — who has dual Canadian and American citizenship — to six years in prison under a plea deal that included reducing a manslaughter charge.

Authorities say Tichelman injected Forrest Timothy Hayes with heroin in November 2013 then left without seeking help when he passed out on the yacht. Hayes had hired Tichelman several times before and they were doing drugs and

having sex the night he died, authorities said.

Defence attorney Larry Biggam said Tichelman is expected to serve only three years. She will be credited for nearly a year already served.

Tichelman agreed to the plea deal in light of the evidence, the lawyer said. "It was an accidental overdose between two consenting adults," he said.

The high-end call girl was arrested eight months after Hayes' death. A surveillance video at the Santa Cruz harbour showed the woman gather her belongings, casually step over Hayes' body, finish a glass of wine and lower a blind before leaving the yacht the night before the body was discovered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Rescue workers probe the site of the Germanwings crash site near Seyne-les-Alpes, France, in March. The remains of the 150 victims are being turned over to their families for burial. LAURENT CIPRIANI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Remains of air crash victims all identified

AIRBUS IN ALPS

DNA profiles matched based on materials from families

The remains of all 150 victims of the Germanwings plane crash in the French Alps will be turned over to their families for burial now that investigators have completed the process of identifying them.

Marseille Prosecutor Brice Robin said Tuesday that death certificates for everyone aboard

the doomed Airbus A320 jet have been signed and turned over to officials at German airline Lufthansa, parent company of the low-cost airline.

Authorities say co-pilot Andreas Lubitz intentionally crashed the Barcelona-Duesseldorf flight into a mountain, but are still puzzling over why. Investigators say Lubitz, who had suffered from suicidal tendencies and depression in the past, locked the captain out of the plane's cockpit on March 24 and sent the Airbus hurtling into a mountain, killing everyone on board.

Not a single intact body was



Better to get it done right than quickly.

Robert Tansill Oliver, victim's father

toothbrushes.

Robert Tansill Oliver, the father of victim Robert Oliver Calvo, said he and his wife received notification DNA was matched with remains of their son.

The elder Oliver, a retired American teacher who has lived in Barcelona since the 1960s, said he had no complaints about the length of time it took to complete identification.

"I'm happy they have taken their time," Oliver said. "I hope they have done the job correctly. Better to get it done right than quickly."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

found. Investigators collected all the human remains from the site about a week after the crash, then spent weeks carefully matching them with DNA profiles of the passengers and crew. The matches were based on material provided by their families — dental and surgical records, tattoos, hairbrushes,

POLITICS

Clinton renews push for release of 55,000 pages of her emails

Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday pressed the State Department to expedite the release of 55,000 pages of emails from her time as secretary of state, telling reporters in Iowa, "I want those emails out."

Clinton reiterated her push to release the emails shortly after a federal judge rejected the State Department's proposal to disseminate portions of the emails by next January and said the agency must instead conduct a "rolling production" of the records.

Clinton, the Democrat-

ic front-runner in the 2016 presidential election, said she wanted the documents to be released as soon as possible, saying, "Nobody has a bigger interest in getting them released than I do."

Asked if she would demand their release, Clinton said of the emails, "They're not mine. They belong to the State Department."

Clinton spoke after a small business event for her campaign in Iowa, the home of the nation's first presidential caucuses. The disclosure that she

conducted State Department business on a private email account has been a controversy from the very inception of her campaign this year and raised questions about her commitment to transparency.

Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said the State Department would comply with the court's order for the "rolling production" of emails.

The agency had made its initial proposal in a federal court filing Monday night, in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit by Vice News.

In the filing, John F. Hackett, who is responsible for the department's responses to Freedom of Information Act requests, said that following a review of the emails, the department will post the releasable portions of the 55,000 pages on its website.

He said the review will take until the end of the year — and asked the court to adopt a completion date of Jan. 15, 2016, to factor in the holidays. That's just a couple of weeks before the Iowa caucuses and early state primaries that follow.

Hackett said the State Department received the 55,000 pages of emails from Clinton in paper form.

"Given the breadth and importance of the many foreign policy issues on which the secretary of state and the department work, the review of these materials will likely require consultation with a broad range of subject matter experts within the department and other agencies, as well as potentially with foreign governments," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hillary Rodham Clinton
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Insolvencies rising in Canada, report finds

The number of Canadians who can't pay their debts and are being forced into insolvency is on the rise for the first time since the recession, according to a report by CIBC. The bank says the cumulative number of insolvencies rose by 1.2 per cent in the six-month period ended in February. The overall increase came as personal bankruptcies fell by 4.7 per cent. However the number of proposals, where consumers negotiate to repay only a portion of their debt, rose by no less than nine per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oil and gas sector could lose 185,000 jobs: Study

A new study by Enform's labour market division says shrinking budgets in the oil and gas industry could lead to as many as 185,000 direct and indirect job losses this year in Canada. The industry is expected to spend \$94 billion this year, down from \$125 billion last year, the study said. It says engineering construction firms are the most vulnerable, while exploration and development drilling could make up the second most losses. While Alberta would be the hardest hit by any cuts, the pain will extend across Canada, says Carol Howes, director of Enform's labour market division.

Apple introduces new MacBook Pro, iMac

Apple is introducing an updated 15-inch MacBook Pro laptop, starting at \$1,999 US, and a new \$1,999 US iMac desktop computer. The MacBook Pro has a new style of trackpad, faster flash storage and a longer battery life. Apple is also lowering the price for its top-end iMac to \$2,299 US from \$2,499 at some outlets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

	DOLLAR 81.75¢ (-1.43¢)
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DOW JONES: 18,312.39 (+13.51)	

Push on for paid sick leave

EMPLOYMENT

Big U.S. firms tweak policies to get ahead of new legislation

For Shannon Henderson, getting a cold or flu could be the difference between putting food on the table and going hungry. As a part-time customer service representative at a Walmart in Sacramento, Calif., Henderson is one of an estimated 40 million American workers for whom calling in sick is a luxury. If they don't work, they don't get paid.

Paid sick leave is the next frontier in the fight for the country's lowest earners. The debate has caught the attention of governments and companies alike.

U.S. President Barack Obama is calling for federal legislation that would require companies to guarantee workers paid sick days. And since San Francisco started requiring that in 2007, nearly 20 cities and three states — Connecticut, Massachusetts



Shannon Henderson poses outside the Walmart store where she works in Sacramento, Calif. She is one of about 40 million workers who don't get paid if they call in sick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

and California — have passed similar measures. New York, Maryland and other states are considering laws, too. McDonald's Corp. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. both are making changes to their paid sick leave policies.

The new focus comes in

the face of wide disparities between the benefits received by the top and bottom rungs of the corporate ladder. Sixty-one per cent of U.S. workers get at least one paid sick day, according to a survey conducted last year by the Bureau of Labor

Statistics.

But only 20 per cent of workers whose wages are in the bottom 10 per cent get paid sick leave, compared with 87 per cent in the top 10 per cent. Also, 74 per cent of full-time workers get paid sick leave,

66

I'm super-scared of getting sick.

Shannon Henderson

while 24 per cent of part-time workers do, according to BLS.

Despite the disparities, some industry groups are fighting against laws requiring sick leave pay. Many companies are leaning toward policies that lump together sick, personal and vacation days.

Big companies are changing their paid sick leave policies ahead of legislation.

Walmart said within a year it would end the one-day wait for sick pay for all full-time U.S. workers. A spokesman said the company is reviewing its sick policy for part-time workers.

McDonald's is taking a different approach by lumping together personal and sick days. Starting July 1, full-time and part-time workers at company-owned restaurants will begin to accrue personal paid time off after one year of service that can be used for sick leave.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conference to discuss future space travel

Future space travel beyond Earth — to Mars and beyond — will be one of the hot topics at a five-day international space development conference in Toronto this week.

It's the annual conference of the National Space Society, which brings together engin-

ers, scientists, educators, and business representatives from the civilian, military, commercial and other space sectors.

Organizer Marc Boucher says the conference will hear from experts who will discuss different types of propulsion that could be used for future

travel to the Red Planet.

Boucher says he also expects Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, one of the first humans on the moon, to shed light on any future manned trips to Mars when the former U.S. astronaut addresses the confab on Friday.

"He'll be talking about the feasibility of a Mars mission, he'll look at the costs and a realistic timetable," Boucher said in a recent interview.

Marc Garneau, an ex-astronaut and former head of the Canadian Space Agency, will discuss the future of the Can-

adian space industry when he addresses the convention Friday morning.

Boucher said about 800 delegates from around the world have signed up to attend the conference, which runs from May 20 to 24.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RENTALS

Study sees looming housing problem

The country has a looming housing problem that is going to require action from all levels of government, according to a new report from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The study says the long, steady decline in federal subsidies for social housing has left provinces, territories and municipalities struggling against market forces that are making it increasingly difficult for low- and modest-income renters.

"With 850,000 lower-rent units lost in the last decade, our rental sector is ill prepared for any downturn in the housing market," Brad Woodside, the president of the FCM, says in the introduction to the study.

"One in five renters pays

more than 50 per cent of their income on housing."

The report notes that existing social housing stock was created under a partnership involving all orders of government, but as Ottawa unilaterally opts out of renewal agreements, cash-strapped provinces and cities are unable to properly maintain the properties.

Housing price increases that have far outstripped earnings and the switch to higher priced condominium rentals have also made it more difficult for many people to get a foothold.

While a third of households in Canada rent, just 11 per cent of housing starts since 1996 have been built as rental units.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The government has to give us some facts before it spins them

There's spin, and then there are facts.

And while I don't mind Stephen Harper's heavy messaging, it's scary how little actual information we're fed.

Take government scientists, muzzled by what one prominent biologist called the Conservatives' "control issue."

Yesterday, scientists in Ottawa and elsewhere rallied to protest restraints that keep them from talking to the media. Cuts to research mean policies will be based on ideology in the absence of science, they argue.

Biologist Steve Campana (now retired), described a fear among scientists. As veterans like him retire to escape the toxic environment, there will be a hollowing-out of expertise and a "death spiral for government science," he told media.

Of course, Harper is concerned we get his messages. Conservative talking points are so tightly worded he might as well use wind-up dolls. I'm not upset that he holds his MPs so close they must know what deodorant he wears. Spin, after all, is a part of government.

But this is about silencing research that we pay for. And it goes far beyond science.

A recent Toronto Star editorial accused Harper of silencing numerous watchdogs, including ones who overlooked the budget, nuclear energy and veterans affairs.

In Kill the Messengers: Stephen Harper's Assault on Your Right to Know, published this year, author Mark Bourrie argues Harper's control over MPs and bureaucrats makes officials accountable to the PM's agenda, not the electorate.

We've got a National Press Theatre, but you'd never know it, since Harper barely bothers with the press. And his attendance at question period has dwindled to less than one third of the time, the National Post reported this weekend.

Meanwhile, our Access to Information Act feels more like the Failure to Access Information Act. It's more a "shield against transparency," Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault said ahead of a report released in March.

And it's a joke: last year, the Privy Council Office redacted even Prime Minister David Cameron's name before releasing details of his 2011 visit (agenda items were also blacked out).

To quote Campana: "when you go to the extent of silencing just talking about facts, that just doesn't make any sense." And it doesn't make for a good democracy.

If it must, the government can spin the facts I already have on hand — because it gave them to me. Without those facts, I can't properly judge its actions.

Besides, it's my information.

THE BIG THING: CANNES TAKES A STAND ON HIGH HEELS

The ultra-fancy French film festival stepped on some toes this week after hosts turned several women away from movie premieres for wearing flat shoes instead of high heels. The resulting social media dust-up kicked off a debate about the rights to individual expression and comfort versus the obligation to respect the dress code of a private event. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



1 "Shoegate" Backlash was quick after several older women reportedly were denied entry to Sunday's premiere of the film *Carol*, for wearing flat shoes. Asif Kapadia, director of the Amy Winehouse documentary *Amy*, tweeted that his wife temporarily was barred from his premiere for the same reason.

2 Cannes responds

There's long been a strict formal dress code at Cannes — men in tuxedos; women in evening dresses — but there's no specific rule about heel height, said festival spokeswoman Christine Aime. She said hosts were reminded of that after the controversy hit.

3 Award for awkwardness This hiccup came at a bad time, as Cannes has worked hard to embrace gender equality. A female director opened the event for the first time since 1987. The fest features female-driven films such as the thriller *Sicario*, with Emily Blunt, who said it's "disappointing" female festival-goers were expected to suffer for the sake of formality.

For health and privacy, we must protect genetic data

THE SCIENCE

Stephanie Orford



Earlier this month the Senate Human Rights Committee gutted a bill calling for a law against genetic discrimination in Canada. Instead of protecting Canadians from having their personal genetic information used against them, the bill now simply provides a definition of "disclose" and "genetic test," and protects no one.

More than 26,000 genetic tests are now available to the public. Many do-it-yourself tests, like those offered by mail from the California-based company 23andMe, cost less than \$200. As more Canadians elect to find out what their genetic blueprints say about them, Canada needs to protect their genetic information from being misused.

According to Senator James Cowan, who tabled the bill,

most other Western democratic countries have laws like this already. In 2003, the United Nations' scientific and cultural organization adopted the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data, which aims to prevent personal genetic information from being used against an individual or group.

Why isn't Canada on board? The insurance industry opposed the original bill banning genetic discrimination, Senator Cowan said in the Senate.

Really? Should business interests be the reason this principle fails to become law?

Many Canadians who are sick and in need of treatment could be helped by genetic testing.

But with no law to protect them, they might decide not to get tested.

They might fear repercussions from their insurance company or employers down the road, if their tests indicate they carry genes that predis-

pose them to a medical condition or disease.

Canadians may well decide not to get tested if there's a risk their insurance premiums will go up, or that they will be denied insurance.

Ironically, when a patient is able to catch a genetic disease early through testing, they're often able to take preventative measures that reduce the potential cost of their care for everyone involved — including themselves, the government and their insurers.

Genetic discrimination could come from anywhere, not just insurance companies. Should a hospital be allowed to deny a surgeon a job if he or she were found to be at risk for tremor-causing Parkinson's disease? Would it be OK if a private school, whose reputation depends on its students' test scores, rejected a student who carried a gene related to dyslexia?

We should not leave these decisions for Canadian organizations to make for them-

Should a hospital be able to deny a surgeon a job if he or she were found to be at risk for tremor-causing Parkinson's? Would it be OK if a private school ... rejected a student who carried a gene related to dyslexia?

selves. As researchers discover more about the complicated human blueprint, Canadians will need increasing protection from discrimination that might arise from that information.

Stephanie Orford is a Vancouver-based writer. The Science appears every other Wednesday.

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Mirror gazing shows men the vainest of all

SURVEY

Males admire their reflection 23 times a day, females only 16

Women are often portrayed as bathroom hoggers who spend hours in front of the mirror before leaving the house, but new research shows that men could actually be the vainest sex.

A survey of 1,000 British individuals by men's lifestyle e-tailer Avaj has revealed that men look at their reflection 23 times a day on average — compared to women, who check themselves out a mere 16 times.

And while the ladies are generally checking that nothing is out of place and worrying about love handles or stray eyebrow hairs, guys admit that most of the time when they check themselves out it is purely for the pleasure of admiring their favourite body parts.

On average, men confessed to spending 10 minutes per day looking at their reflection — amounting to over two days per year. A self-confident 11 per cent of male respondents even admitted to mirror gazing over 30 times a day.

When it comes to their favourite parts, the majority of guys are all about the guns, with 76 per cent checking out their arms. This is followed by their legs (54 per cent), their smiles



Men in the survey admitted to spending 10 minutes per day looking at their reflection — amounting to over two days per year of image gazing. ISTOCK

(49 per cent), their eyes (43 per cent), and their hair (38 per cent).

Overall, 82 per cent of men agreed that maintaining a good personal appearance was a key prerogative, with 67 per cent revealing they have three or more cosmetic products, and 34 per cent admitting to having used a female friend or family member's cosmetic products in the past. Nine percent use cosmetic products targeted at women regularly.

Tracey Denison, managing director at Avaj, said the behaviour



It's also possible that the selfie trend is partially driving this rise in male vanity, as people become more used to celebrating their appearance

Tracy Denison, managing director at Avaj

could be due to the increasing trend for selfies. "It's also possible that the selfie trend is partially driving this rise in male vanity, as people become more used to celebrating their appearance,"

she explained.

"Unfortunately, this doesn't seem to have seeped through to women as much, and they still seem to be the more self-conscious sex." AFP

ANALYSIS

Pop lyrics getting dumber and dumber

Lyrics across a variety of pop genres have been losing sophistication over the last 10 years, according to an analysis by Andrew Powell-Morse of ticket marketplace SeatSmart.

Powell-Morse analyzed 225 songs that had all spent at least three weeks at number one on the Billboard charts for Pop, Country, Rock, and R&B/Hip-Hop for any given year.

He found that while in 2005-2006 an eight- or nine-year-old might have had trouble with some pop lyrics, that is no longer a problem, with 2014 lyrics dipping to the reading level of a seven- or eight-year-old.

Among his other findings are

that men "talk more" — that is, their songs feature a higher word count — while women "have slightly more intelligent things to say," measured by the U.S. grade level of the texts.

Country came out with the highest reading level, followed by pop and rock with a tie, and R&B/hip-hop had the lowest. Artists who came out on top included

Eminem for hip-hop, Carrie Underwood for country, Nickelback for rock and Mariah Carey for pop.

AFP



Carrie Underwood
GETTY IMAGES



HEALTH TECH

Car company puts priority on potty breaks

Toyota knows how important bathroom breaks are on long road trips, so they've developed an app for locating the loo.

Due to roll out Thursday in Japan, the app doesn't just tell you where the toilet is, it gives specifics like how many steps there are into a building, if it is wheelchair accessible, what the hours of operation are, or if it has baby changing facilities.

Created in partnership with the Iseshima Barrier Free Tour Center, a not-for-profit organization that promotes personal "barrier-free" standards for people with special needs, the app will get its official debut at Welfare 2015, a health and welfare exhibition taking place this week in Nagoya, Japan.

Initially the app will only offer in-depth information on areas in Japan.

AFP



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Back to basics

From canning to condo-raised quail, a movement is bringing the country to city living

Laura Boast
Metro|Life

So you want to go back to the land, raise livestock, harvest crops.

Like most city folk, however, your head's in the clouds, 20 storeys up, nowhere close to a home with a garden, let alone farmland. It's impossible, you think.

Far from it, say the authors of three new cookbooks. Your dream is as close as your kitchen.

All three are pioneers of urban homesteading, a movement reviving the hands-on skills of farm living — and eating — in the heart of the city. It's everything from growing herbs on your windowsill to raising quail and collecting your eggs for breakfast.

"Everything DIY, it's really rewarding," says Aimée Wimbush-Bourque, creator of Simple Bites blog and author of Brown Eggs and Jam Jars. "It's practical and relaxing. People are rediscovering the joy of using their hands again."

For Wimbush-Bourque and her husband, it's about teaching their children self-sufficiency, and how much fun that can be. They even tap their own sugar maple tree in Laval, Que., to make maple syrup.

Urban homesteaders come from all walks of life. Camilla Wynne, author of Preservation Society: Home Preserves, went from playing in an indie rock band to making delicious jams, jellies and preserves at her company Preservation Society in downtown Montreal.

"A lot of urban people don't have direct contact with farms and nature and things like that," says Wynne. "People working in offices, it connects them with the parts of our lives that are missing."

One thing that connects all urban

homesteaders is a taste for whole foods — in some cases, extreme whole foods.

Michelle Catherine Nelson, author of The Urban Homesteading Cookbook, is a practitioner of that approach. Like the rabbits she raised in the living room of her downtown Vancouver condo — not as pets, but ingredients. She believes foodies are leading the way.

"There's a desire for homemade, artisanal food," says Nelson, a conservation biologist on the West Coast. "Some of it is esthetic — like craft beer is cooler because it's craft beer — and some of it is about the quality."

It's good for the planet

All three women agree that making food and drinks from scratch is not only good for your taste buds and pocket-book, but for the planet.

"Eating local (year-round) is not super easy, unless you're canning," says Wynne.

Urban homesteading takes less energy than factory-scale farming, and reduces food transportation costs down to walking across the living room to your balcony to harvest tomatoes.

These women were all exposed to farm life as children, thanks to grandparents with farms. In fact, both Wynne and Nelson dedicated their cookbooks to their grandmothers.

"She is totally the reason I'm doing what I do," says Nelson. "She did everything herself, using every resource available, not wasting anything. People weren't thinking about sustainability, but the ethic underneath it is the same."

Anyone can do it

Even if the closest you've been to a farm is a petting zoo and you grew up on processed food, these pioneers say you can champion the urban homesteading movement.

"Most of the people I know who are most passionate about this say, 'My

mom never cooked a thing,'" says Wimbush-Bourque. "Occasionally, people had a weekend at grandma's or Italian neighbours who grew things in the backyard, but very few have tangible experiences like that."

Nelson recommends YouTube instructional videos and online forums as learning tools. They're not just practical resources — they can provide a sense of community, something you may need starting out, along with a supportive partner.

"A huge part of my being able to do this is my partner (Chris)," Nelson says. "When I started three years ago, (it seemed) nobody was doing any of this stuff. They were like, 'Oh, you want to keep rabbits in your living room? That's really weird. I don't ever want to come over to your house.' But Chris was like, 'Let's do this.'"

Education

Of course, if you're planning on raising livestock, even micro-livestock like quail, you need to educate yourself on local bylaws. You may be pleasantly surprised. Wimbush-Bourque reports that residents of Westmount, Montreal's most tony neighbourhood, are allowed to keep chickens.

Wynne, who offers classes in canning and preserving at her company Preservation Society, says it's important to seek a mentor, or take a class, to ensure more successful experiments.

Nelson says you should still expect a lot of trial and error, and that even mistakes can turn out well. She recalls setting out to make mincemeat with green tomatoes she'd grown on her condo balcony, and she ended up burning part of the batch.

"I mixed it in and tasted it and thought, 'This doesn't taste like mincemeat.' It had more of a smoky flavour, so I bottled it and called it 'smoked tomato chutney,' and everyone loved it."



Scientists and urban homesteaders Michelle Nelson and Chris Mull

ALISON PAGE/THE URBAN HOMESTEADING COOKBOOK

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5 TIPS FOR THE URBAN HOMESTEADER

LAURA BOAST/METRO



Apple sauce TIM AND ANGELA CHIN/
COURTESY PENGUIN CANADA

1 Why it's called preserving

Camilla Wynne, owner of Preservation Society, says food that is properly canned will keep for a very long time. So there's no need to worry about Aunt Ida's two-year-old jam, or your own big batch of preserves. Things are preserved so they can be enjoyed for years to come.

Colour, flavour and texture degrade over time, Wynne says, but that's it. She argues that some preserves like marmalade improve with age, like wine, as their flavours deepen.

"The best-before date on (canned food) really is just about the best part," says Wynne. "Your canned peaches after five years might be on the browner side, but if there's a nuclear holocaust, it's still edible."



Wynne teaches a class at her company Preservation Society. COURTESY CAMILLA WYNNE

2 Yes, you can

Keep things simple when you first start canning.

"I tell people to start with refrigerator pickles," says Aimée Wimbush-Bourque, author of the recipe book *Brown Eggs and Jam Jars*. "They're easy."

Camilla Wynne says fruits like peaches and raspberries are also a good bet because there is sufficient acid for food safety (fruit is acid) and you can customize the flavour to taste. Simply put the raw fruit in sanitized jars, add water, fruit juice or syrup and whatever special extras you desire.

"Add spices, herbs, honey or liqueurs to amp up the flavour," says Wynne.

BE SAFE: Follow the proper procedure for canning. That's where a class or a mentor can come in handy.



Wimbush-Bourque and family in an apple orchard

TIM AND ANGELA CHIN/COURTESY PENGUIN CANADA

5 Get out of town

If you aren't ready to go whole hog, but want a taste of farm life, go ahead and get that taste, smell and touch — on a real farm. "So many farms now, if you call them up, they have specific visitors days, and you-pick-it days," says Wimbush-Bourque. "Farmers are wising up to the fact that city dwellers are looking for that connection to the land."

Wimbush-Bourque and her family enjoy visiting local country fall fairs for a day, packing a picnic, visiting the livestock and produce displays, and learning about the lifestyle.

"You get a feel of farm life if you hang out long enough," she says.

4 If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em

Nelson suggests that more daring locavores might want to join the Invasive Food Movement. It's a way to bite back against invasive plants and animals that are out-competing native species. Have a hankering for escargot? Find some invasive European garden snails, taking over gardens across the country. Japanese knotweed, now a pesky invasive plant, is an edible plant in the spring.

BE SAFE: Before you set out, get guidance on bylaws and safety of invasive species.



ALISON PAGE/THE URBAN HOMESTEADING COOKBOOK

3 Picnic on the lawn

If growing crops on your apartment balcony is out of the question, you can forage for free food around your apartment building or your friend's back garden, says conservation biologist Michelle Nelson.

Take dandelions, for instance. Europeans settlers planted them as an edible plant. The same is true of a lot of weeds found in lawns across the country. "People forget they're food," she says.

BE SAFE: Don't eat weeds treated with pesticides. Nelson is putting out a foraging guide with 30 edible weeds.



Edible Japanese knotweed
ALISON PAGE/THE URBAN HOMESTEADING COOKBOOK

TRY IT

This recipe, from Aimée Wimbush-Bourque's recipe book *Brown Eggs and Jam Jars*, is the epitome of simple, whole food. If you've got chives growing in a container garden on your balcony, or a friend with chives in the garden, you can make this. Great straight on baguette, crostini or cucumber sandwiches.

Radish chive butter

Makes ½ cup (125 mL)
(This butter will keep, covered and refrigerated, for up to 2 days)

½ cup (60 mL) unsalted butter, room temperature
4 radishes
1 Tbsp (15 mL) chopped young chives
Flaky sea salt

1. Place butter in a small bowl. Using a microplane, grate radishes into the butter. Add chopped chives. Cream the mixture together with a sturdy spatula until it is a unified paste.
2. Transfer radish butter to a small serving dish and serve at room temperature with the sea salt for garnish.



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Certain conditions apply. ‡Representative finance offer based on a new 2015 Micra SR MT (S5SG55 AA10) transmission. Selling Price is \$17,039 financed at 0% APR equals 60 monthly payments of \$284 for a 60 month term. \$0 down payment required. Cost of borrowing is \$0 for a total obligation of \$17,039. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. \$500 Cash bonus included in advertised offers applicable only on the 2015 Micra SR MT (S5SG55 AA10) transmission. *Representative monthly lease offer based on any new 2015 Rogue S FWD (Y6RG15 AA00)/2015 Sentra 1.8 S M6 (C4LG55 AA00)/2015 Altima 2.5 CVT Transmission (T4LG15 AA00). 1.99%/0.9%/0% lease APR for a 60/60/60 month term equals monthly payments of \$255/\$158/\$240 with \$0 down payment, and \$0 security deposit are due at lease inception. Prices and payments include freight and fees. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Total lease obligation is \$15,319/\$9,488/\$14,370. These offers are only valid from May 1 – June 1, 2015. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. \$1,000/\$1,000/\$1,000 cash bonus included in advertised offers applicable only on the 2015 Rogue S FWD (Y6RG15 AA00)/2015 Sentra 1.8 S M6 (C4LG55 AA00)/2015 Altima 2.5 CVT Transmission (T4LG15 AA00). Conditions apply. †Models shown \$36,732/\$26,099/\$18,539 Selling price for a new 2015 Rogue SL AWD Premium (Y6DG15 BK00)/2015 Sentra 1.8 SL (C4TG15 AA00)/2015 Micra* 1.6 SR 4AT (S5SG75 AE00). **\$9,998 MSRP price for a new 2015 Nissan Micra* 1.6 S, MT (S5LG55 AA10) Conditions apply. ***Freight and PDE charges (\$1,750/\$1,567/\$1,567) air-conditioning levy (\$100) where applicable, applicable fees (all which may vary by region), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. Offers valid between May 1 – June 1, 2015. †The Nissan Loyalty Offer ("Offer") is available only to eligible customers who (as of February 1, 2015) lease/leased, finance/financed or own/owned a 2009 or newer Nissan brand vehicle (an "Existing Vehicle"). Eligibility for the Offer will be determined by Nissan Canada Inc. ("NCI") in its sole discretion. Proof of current or previous ownership/lease/finance contract will be required. Offer is not transferable or assignable, except to a co-owner/co-lessee of the Existing Vehicle who resides within the same household as the intended recipient of the Offer. If the eligible customer elects to lease or finance a new and previously unregistered model year 2015 and 2016 Nissan brand vehicle (excluding NV, Fleet and daily rentals) (an "Eligible New Vehicle") through NCI and Nissan Canada Financial Services Inc. (collectively "NCF"), then he/she will receive a specified amount of stackable loyalty dollars ("Loyalty Dollars"), as follows: (i) Micra/Versa/Sentra (\$500); (ii) Juke/Altima/Rogue (\$600); (iii) Frontier/Xterra/Leaf/Murano/Pathfinder (\$800); and (iv) Maxima/Z/Titan, Armada/GT-R (\$1000). Loyalty Dollars are inclusive of all GST/HST/QST/PST as applicable. Alternatively, if the eligible customer elects to purchase or lease/finance an Eligible New Vehicle (excluding GT-R) other than through NCF, then he/she will receive a three-year/48,000 kilometer (whichever comes first) Oil Change and Tire Rotation Plan which consists of a maximum of 6 service visits, each consisting of 1 oil change (using conventional 5W/30 motor oil) and 1 tire rotation. For complete details on the Oil Change and Tire Rotation Plan, ask your dealer. Offer has no cash redemption value and can be combined with other offers. Offer valid on Eligible New Vehicles purchased/leased/financed and delivered between May 1, 2015 and July 31, 2015. Conditions apply. Model(s) shown for illustration purposes only. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice. While quantities last. Ask your dealer or visit www.nissan.ca for complete details. Nissan names, logos and slogans are trademarks owned by or licensed to Nissan Motor Co. 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VW Golf stands test of time



JIL McINTOSH/FOR METRO

THE CHECKLIST | 2015 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact hatchback
Engine (hp/torque). 1.8-litre turbo four-cylinder (170/185)

Transmission. Five-speed manual or six-speed automatic

Price. Base \$19,995, as tested, \$32,090 (plus destination)

POINTS

- The Golf is currently the only non-premium vehicle to offer a diesel engine in a hatchback or station wagon.
- The infotainment screen has a proximity sensor to bring up the menu when you put your hand near it.



JIL McINTOSH/FOR METRO

COOL FEATURES

- Available: auto-dimming high-beams
- Fender stereo system
- Panoramic dual-pane sunroof
- Forward collision warning
- Rain-sensing wipers
- Sport seats and suspension
- Rearview camera

MARKET POSITION

- Originally sold as the Rabbit in Canada when it debuted for 1975, the Golf went on to become a bestseller for the company. Volkswagen generally plays it safe with its styling changes, and most of this all-new model's upgrades are under the skin.

THE COMPETITION



Honda Fit
Base price: \$14,575



Mazda3 Sport
Base price: \$16,995



Kia Forte5
Base price: \$19,495

REVIEW

Roomier 2015 model feels solid, yet light to drive

Jil McIntosh
For Metro

Talk about longevity: the Volkswagen Golf is now 40 years old, and in that time, the company has made more than 30 million copies. And now, for 2015, there's a new one.

You might not even notice if you're not really familiar with it, because the styling changes are relatively minor. But it rides on a new platform, and it's slightly longer and wider for more interior space.

A two-door hatchback version starts at \$18,995, while the four-door begins at \$19,995.

A station wagon is also available. A diesel engine is offered, but this reviewer drove the turbocharged gasoline 1.8-litre four-cylinder. And there's one more choice in all three Golf trim lines: five-speed manual or six-speed automatic transmission.

No car stays around that long if it doesn't have the chops. The Golf feels solid but not heavy, and its steering is almost perfectly weighted, with

enough heft to feel in control, but still light enough that you can spin it easily into a parking space. There is virtually no lag in its peppy turbo engine, and the automatic shifts smoothly and almost imperceptibly. This car is just a joy to drive.

Don't prejudice if you initially find the seats too hard. They're not cushy, but they're extremely supportive, and unlike many softer seats, they'll stay comfortable for hours.

The car Metro took for a drive had the top Highline trim, which includes leather seats, rain-sensing wipers, twin-pane panoramic sunroof, and an auto-dimming mirror, for \$29,895. The vehicle also included an optional package of premium stereo, navigation, LED running lights, forward collision warning, and adaptive high-intensity headlamps

for another \$2,195.



No car stays around that long if it doesn't have the chops

An issue with the Golf is that while the interior is put together very well, its plain and plastic-heavy appearance can be at odds with the top trim's price. It's fine in the \$20,000 model, but doesn't look upscale enough at \$32,000.

That aside, 30 million fans can't be wrong. The Golf is practical, but it's also a good performer. Even if you only buy a car as a commuter, there's no reason why it can't be fun to drive, as well.

DESIGN

New Camaro muscles in on Mustang's turf

The new Camaro is lighter, smaller, faster and built around the needs of dedicated drivers, and could easily be mistaken for a European rather than an American sports car.

Chevrolet claims that in order to deliver something special, it focused on three pillars: performance, technology and design, plus feedback from current Camaro owners.

"(They) provided direct feedback on what they loved about their car and

what they wanted for the next-gen Camaro," said Al Oppenheiser, Camaro chief engineer.

"As a result, the 2016 Camaro builds on what made the current Camaro such a success with more power, more agile handling and more technology," he said.

However, there was also another aspect at play dictating how the new Camaro would look and feel — the new Ford Mustang which itself has been redefining

benchmarks. And on paper, each new Camaro model seems to trump its Mustang equivalent.

The new SS model boasts a body honed by 350 hours in the wind tunnel, a 455hp, 6.2-litre V8 from a Corvette Stingray, a six-speed manual transmission, Brembo brakes and optional magnetic ride control.

Still, plump for any of the new engines on offer, from the 2-litre, turbocharged four-cylinder unit to the new

3.6-litre V6, the resulting car will offer economy (via cylinder deactivation technology), performance and agility in equal measure.

In terms of technology, the new car can be configured and customized to suit an individual owner's tastes, from throttle response to suspension set-up.

The sixth-generation Camaro will go on sale in the U.S. later this year and will arrive on European shores next year. AFP



The new Chevrolet Camaro SS. CHEVROLET

E-truck to begin tests this summer

BOLT EV

GM confirms e-car's name

General Motors' upcoming mass-market pure electric car will be called the Bolt EV, the company confirmed. The hatchback will debut in 2016 as a 2017 model. It will have a range of more than 320 kilometres and will be sold across the U.S. and Canada. The car is "a significant statement" of Chevrolet's commitment to electrification, and the name suits this vehicle designed for attainability, GM said.



TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

TRANSPORT

BMW touts 'green' vehicle

The BMW Group has partnered with logistics company SCHERM Group on a 35-tonne pure-electric truck to move goods on Germany's roads this summer. The truck emits no carbon dioxide and virtually no particle pollution, BMW said, adding the truck will generate 10.7 metric tonnes less carbon dioxide per year, compared to an equivalent diesel-engine truck.



THE GREEN ANGLE

Metro's weekly picks for the latest in environmental news

CONCEPTS

Cow dung to fuel G-Code

The Mercedes-Benz Vision G-Code concept that debuted at the recent Geneva Motor Show in Switzerland pioneers advanced conceptual thinking, including being powered by methane derived from cow dung, but don't expect to see it on public roads anytime soon, writes Britain's CAR magazine. Its combustion engine runs on hydrogen derived from methane with supplemental plug-in hybrid drive. Basically, the engine drives the front wheels and the electric motor drives the rear wheels. Its "multi-voltaic silver" paint is not only supposed to act as a giant solar cell, but is also electrostatically charged by wind to help keep the batteries topped up, while more energy is harvested from suspension rebound. CAR magazine says don't expect a vehicle anything like the G-Code until late this century.

HYBRIDS

North America may get Rogue

Nissan has added a hybrid version of its popular Rogue tall wagon to its Japan lineup, and might bring it to North America, reports industry watchdog Automotive News. Nissan did not announce overseas sales plans, but is considering a possible U.S. introduction of a Rogue hybrid, said chief engineer Nobusuke Toukara. U.S. hybrid production is expected to increase over the next five years as vehicle-emission rules become more stringent, and Nissan wants to have a hybrid ready, if necessary, he said.



+ ENVIRONMENT

U.S. could rely on flex-fuel vehicles to fill mandate

The U.S. wants to cut greenhouse-gas emissions from its government's 655,000-vehicle fleet by 30 per cent over the next 10 years. Hitting the target might mean buying more "flex fuel" models that run on ethanol or gasoline, notes Green Car Reports. Emissions rules allow taking credit by buying them despite most "never burning a drop of E85 (an ethanol fuel blend), which is available at fewer than 2 per cent of gas stations nationwide."



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For the latest information, visit us at gmc.gm.ca, drop by your local Buick GMC Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. *Based on a 24/24/48 month lease for 2015 GMC (Sierra 1500 Double Cab 4X4 1SA+G80+H2R+B30/Sierra 1500 Crew Cab 4X4 1SA+G80+H30/Acadia SLE AWD 3SA). Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km, \$0.16 per excess kilometre. DAC by GM Financial. Monthly/Bi-Weekly payments may vary depending on down payment/trade. A down payment or trade of \$1,850/\$1,850/\$1,495 and/or \$0 security deposit is required. Total obligation is \$9,369/\$9,369/\$20,716. Option to purchase at lease end is \$22,211/\$24,427/\$19,315. Excess wear and tear and km charges not included. Other lease options available. †Offer applies to the purchase of 2015 GMC Terrain SLE 3SA. ♦\$4,500/\$3,500 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2015 GMC Sierra 1500 Double Cab/2015 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Other cash credits available on most models. See dealer for details. ♦♦\$4,200 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2015 GMC Terrain SLE-1 and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Such credit is available only for cash purchase and by selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing such credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. Other cash credits available on most models. See dealer for details. ▼/♦/♦♦/****Freight & PDI, (\$1,695/\$1,695/\$1,650/\$1,650), registration, air and tire levies and DMV fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2015 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Buick GMC Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ±2015 Sierra 1500 SLE Double Cab 4WD with GAT, MSRP with freight PDI & levies \$45,419. 2015 Acadia AWD SLT-1, MSRP with freight PDI & levies \$49,454. Dealers are free to set individual prices. ▲Warranty based on 5-years or 110,000 km, whichever comes first. Fully transferable. See dealer for conditions and limited warranty details. Excludes Medium Duty Trucks. 1 Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any model year 1999 or newer car that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2015 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac car, SUV, crossover and pickups models delivered in Canada from May 1, 2015 - June 1, 2015. Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive); \$1,000 credit available on other Chevrolet, Buick GMC vehicles (except Chevrolet Colorado 2SA, Camaro Z28, Malibu LS, Silverado Light Duty and Heavy Duty, GMC Canyon 2SA, Sierra Light Duty and Heavy Duty); \$1,000 credit available on Cadillac vehicles (except 2015 Cadillac Escalade) and \$1,000 on all Chevrolet Silverado's and GMC Sierra's. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason in whole or in part at any time without prior notice. 2 Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any Pontiac/Saturn/GA8/Hummer/Oldsmobile model year 1999 or newer car or Chevrolet Cobalt or HHR that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2015 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac car, SUV, crossover and pickups models delivered in Canada from May 1, 2015 - June 1, 2015. Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive); \$1,000 credit available on other Chevrolet, Buick GMC vehicles (except Chevrolet Colorado 2SA, Camaro Z28, Malibu LS, Silverado Light Duty and Heavy Duty, GMC Canyon 2SA, Sierra Light Duty and Heavy Duty); \$1,000 credit available on Cadillac vehicles (except 2015 Cadillac Escalade) and \$1,000 on all Chevrolet Silverado's and GMC Sierra's. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason in whole or in part at any time without prior notice. *\$10,000 is a combined total credit consisting of a \$4,500 manufacturer-to-dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive), \$2,345 Cash Credit (tax exclusive), \$1,000 Loyalty Cash (tax inclusive) and a \$2,155 manufacturer-to-dealer Kodiak Package Discount Credit (tax exclusive) for 2015 Sierra SLE Kodiak Edition, which is available for cash purchases only and cannot be combined with special lease and finance rates. By selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing this \$2,155 credit, which will result in higher effective interest rates. Discounts vary by model. +Visit onstar.ca for coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and connectivity may vary by model and conditions. OnStar with 4G LTE connectivity is available on select vehicle models and in select markets. Customers will be able to access OnStar services only if they accept the OnStar User Terms and Privacy Statement. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. After the trial period (if applicable), an active OnStar service plan is required.

Special Delivery: Jetta TDI

What test car is Garry bringing us this time? We literally have no clue what he's bringing us until it lands in our driveway, but who are we to doubt Garry Sowerby, who has a bazillion Guinness records for around-the-world driving? That's a bazillion more than we have, after all. Come along for the ride as we deliver real-life reviews.

JEFF MELNYCHUK WHEELBASE MEDIA

It takes 150 kilometres — 75 minutes — to realize how fantastic the diesel Jetta is on fuel.

The needle is still above the full mark. Above it, not on it.

It's a twisted little game to see just how far the clink-clank four-cylinder will go before the pointer budges. It's also a game to see how close to zero I can make the real-time fuel-consumption indicator sink. Downhill, engine at 2,000 revs per minute, and the gauge reads 0.0 l/100 km. Whoa. VW has apparently invented perpetual motion/energy. That'll teach that Einstein chap a thing or three.

When Garry dropped off the Jetta, he said it cost him \$11 for a trip that would normally cost \$18 to \$20. Add that up over the life of a car and the TDI's savings are substantial and the best part is that you don't give up power or driving comfort or features to get it.

The reason is that Volkswagens in general, and the Jetta specifically, are exceptional in a couple of crucial areas.

What makes Jetta great

First and foremost is the ride and drive quality. The cars practically steer themselves down the road. You could be in Calgary, aim for Winnipeg, put on a blindfold and probably make it, alive, and without having to stop for fuel. Volkswagens make great long-distance companions that won't tire out your forearms.

Second is how easy they are to use. No wild interior designs that look like the inside of an alien spaceship's game room, where the volume knob for the stereo is impossible to find without pulling over and calling CAA. It's just a classy and functional space.

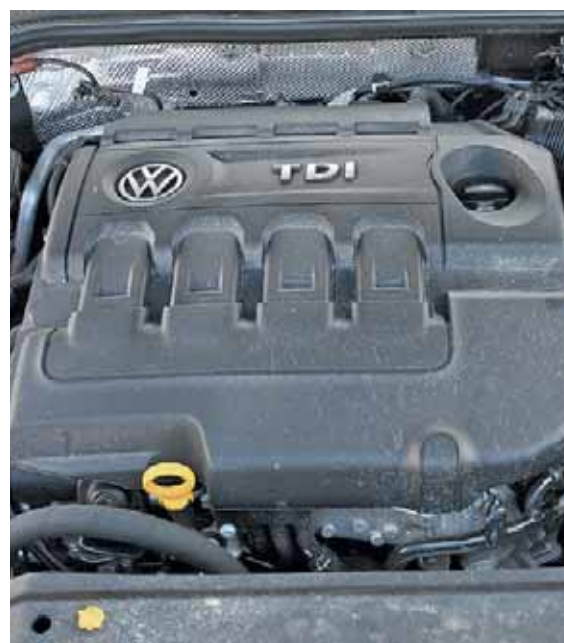
And then there's the TDI engine. As much as I like the 150-horsepower 2.0-litre and its armwrestler-y 236 pound-feet of torque from just off idle to about 3,000 revs per minute, there's an issue: that grey (dead) area between idle and just off idle when it starts making some power. The lack of throttle response left me hanging numerous times while trying to make a left turn across two lanes of busy traffic. One time, pressing the pedal literally did nothing and I had to wait for a gaping opening



The 2015 Volkswagen Jetta TDI is one fuel-efficient vehicle. VOLKSWAGEN



The dashboard layboard is simple. WHEELBASE MEDIA



Who's the little guy making all that big noise? WHEELBASE MEDIA

+ LET'S TALK

WOW: Coaxing lower l/100 km is addictive; drive quality is probably the best in the category; simple dash layout; big trunk ... who needs a wagon?



Roomy enough for leggy types. WHEELBASE MEDIA

HMM: Elegant to snooty types, terminally boring to others; first touch of the "go" pedal doesn't make anything go.

in traffic to try to make it. VW needs to work on that.

And what about the higher cost of diesel? At the time of this test, it was the same price as mid-grade, so it's not a factor, at least right now.

So, the diesel is pretty awesome, but it would be better if were more widely available in the Jetta lineup. It's only available beginning in the third-from-the-bottom Comfortline trim where it comes with either a six-speed manual transmission or a six-speed paddle-shift automatic.

What's on the inside

Garry's test car is a step up from that — the Highline — with the automatic transmission for \$33,500 (including destination charges) and a whole lot of stuff inside and out, including leather seats, Fender-brand audio system and a suite of sweet crash-avoiding electronic-intervention software.

So, there's a lot of upsides and no real downsides here, other than perhaps being a little understated, which some people might refer to as classy or elegant. That's a bit of stretch here (it's not sexy), unlike the TDI's fuel efficiency, which would be THE reason to plunk down your money. Get one and driving becomes a whole new game.



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*Ratings are awarded by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). To qualify for 2015 TOP SAFETY PICK+, a vehicle must earn good ratings in the moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests; a good or acceptable rating in the small overlap front test; and an advanced or superior rating for front crash prevention. The 2015 TOP SAFETY PICK+ designation applies only to 2015 Impreza/Forester models equipped with optional EyeSight® technology. MSRP of \$19,995/\$25,995 on 2015 IMPREZA 2.0i (FF1-20)/2015 FORESTER 2.5i (FJ1 X0). Lease rate of 0.9%/0.5% for 48/39 months. Monthly payment is \$198/\$298 with \$2,991/\$2,688 down payment. Option to purchase at end of lease is \$9,944/\$13,983 with \$3,604/\$3,375 due on signing. Advertised pricing consists of MSRP plus charges for Freight/PDI (\$1,595 on 2015 Impreza; \$1,650 on 2015 Forester), Air Tax (\$100), Tire Stewardship Levy (\$27.15), OMVIC Fee (\$5), Dealer Admin (\$199). Freight/PDI charge includes a full tank of gas. Taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. \$0 security deposit. Models shown: 2015 Forester 2.5i Touring Package (FJI TP) with an MSRP of \$29,995. 2015 Impreza 2.0i Touring Package (FF1 TP) with an MSRP of \$21,695. Dealers may sell or lease for less or may have to order or trade. Vehicles shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Offers expire June 1, 2015. See your local Subaru dealer for complete program details.

Mazda Tribute has got grip

USED VEHICLE

Checks on 2008-2011 models include transmission

Now replaced by the Mazda CX-5, the Tribute was a Ford-based crossover model that offered up available V6 power, four-wheel drive, generous amounts of ground clearance, and a focus on capability and versatility.

Competing with machines like the Toyota RAV-4, Honda CR-V and Subaru Forester, Tribute also offered two or four-wheel drive, and manual or automatic transmissions.

The model boasted a comfortable ride and car-like handling, despite being surprisingly capable in an off-road setting. The fully automatic 4x4 system works well in virtually any situation, too, diligently extracting traction from even slippery surfaces.

Largely, the Tribute looks like a solid used crossover SUV bet, though a few checks are advised during the test-drive process for peace of mind.

On a test drive of 2008-2011 models, pay special attention to the operation of the automatic transmission. Scrutinize any model that is difficult to shift into or out of gear, and note any hard shifting, hesitation or slipping from the gearbox. Some owners have reported having to replace transmissions under warranty. Another sign of trouble is a delay when trying to shift from reverse to drive, and vice versa. Try this several times, making note of any delay.

Check for proper operation of the power windows in both directions, as many reports of failed window regulators have been made in owner forums.

Finally, check the used Tribute for rust, especially around the lower and inner edges of the doors, tailgate and hood.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD



Features

Power seats, tinted glass, fog lamps, stability control, air conditioning, cruise control, leather-wrapped accents, steering-wheel audio controls, remote access, heated mirrors and MP3 capability for the stereo system.

Engines

Look for a 2.5-litre four-cylinder with 171 horsepower, or a 3-litre V6 with 200. From 2009 and on, that V6 was retuned to create 240 horsepower.

What owners like

Good performance from the factory stereo system, very pleasing performance with the 240-horsepower V6 engine, good ride quality and year-round traction on AWD models. Good outward visibility and a tough and durable feel to the Tribute's ride are also noted.

What owners dislike

Mainly heavy fuel consumption, some cheap interior trim, and higher-than-expected levels of wind and road noise. Some owners also wish for more comfortable seats, or a manual-mode with the automatic transmission for more control of shifting.

The verdict

Tribute seems to be well-enjoyed for its driving experience and performance, though potential transmission issues seem slightly worrisome. Seek out a good price on a model with full service records that exhibit no signs of trouble, and buy confidently.

+ AUTO NEWS SWITZERLAND'S FIRST DRIVERLESS CAR HITS ZURICH ROADS



The roads of Zurich, Switzerland, hosted the Volkswagen Passat self-driving car. FLICKR: BENJAMIN STÄUDINGER

Swiss telephone firm Swisscom recently unveiled a driverless car that has been tested on the roads of Zurich, a first in the country. The Volkswagen Passat, which underwent a week of road tests earlier this month, has been equipped with sensors, computers and special software. "Swisscom is interested in the digitization of the economy," said company official Christian Petit. The

computer drives, steers and brakes the car and uses laser scanners, radar and video cameras to detect nearby vehicles and pedestrians and road users. The software is used to issue driving commands and analyse data. The project also involves Germany's Auto-Nomos Labs, which has run similar tests in Berlin. The test Passat has two people in it as a precautionary measure. AFP

RANKINGS

Mazda3: coolest car in U.S.

The 2015 Mazda3 has taken the top honour as the coolest affordable car on sale in the U.S. at the moment, pushing the Volkswagen Golf into second place.

The ranking comes courtesy of Kelley Blue Book, the consumer- and industry-serving vehicle valuation and automotive research firm, which has published its 10 Coolest Cars Under \$18,000 list.

Kelley Blue Book defined

a car as cool if it was fun to drive and fun to own, that is, spent most of its time in the driveway rather than with a mechanic or an after-sales service department.

No. 3 on the list is the Kia Soul, with the Jeep Renegade at No. 4 and Honda Civic at No. 5. Making up the last half of the list is the Ford Fiesta, followed by the Honda Fit, Chevrolet Sonic, Subaru Impreza, and Fiat 500. AFP

[illegible]

Big on everything except size



CONTRIBUTED

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 HONDA HR-V

THE BASICS

Type. Five-door, front-wheel drive/AWD compact crossover

Engine (hp). 1.8-litre inline four-cylinder (141)

Transmissions. CVT automatic, six-speed manual

Price. Base \$20,690 (plus destination)

POINTS

- Shares much engineering with new Honda Fit, and built alongside Fit at Honda's new factory in Celaya, Mexico.
- Japanese-market HR-V powered by Fit's 1.5-litre direct-injection DOHC engine; our HR-V powered by the torquier 1.8-litre SOHC engine used in the Civic.



CONTRIBUTED

COOL FEATURES

- Fuel tank located in centre of vehicle, to allow for deeper rear cargo department.
- Available LaneWatch display sends lane images to the main display when signalling.
- Speedometer illumination changes from white to green depending on fuel efficiency.

MARKET POSITION

- Honda's entry in fast-growing subcompact SUV segment. Targeted at buyers who want the drivability and styling of a coupe, and the functionality of an SUV. Aimed at mature Gen Y, couples who have yet to breed, empty nest boomers.

THE COMPETITION



Chevrolet Trax
Base price: \$20,880



Nissan Juke
Base price: \$20,498



Mitsubishi RVR
Base price: \$19,998

REVIEW

Honda's smallest SUV offers most for its space



Mike Goetz
Metro | Canada

Building a crossover on the smallest platform you have in your vehicle portfolio is big business these days for the automakers.

Vehicles such as the Nissan Juke, Jeep Renegade, Buick Encore, Fiat 500X, Chevrolet Trax, and Mini Paceman are all winning buyers. Joining the fray this summer will be the Mazda CX3 and our road-test victim, the 2016 Honda HR-V.

According to Honda, current demographics are playing right into the hands of these little scoots.

Millenniums are coupling up but still childless, and boomers no longer need to chauffeur kids (except for those here and there who refuse to leave the basement).

And typical of Honda, it targeted HR-V right into the heart of this growing and soon-to-be sizeable market. It will not be an outlier in this segment, by going with one personality focus, such as performance, visual piece, or luxury statement.

Instead, the HR-V is a great all-rounder, with just the right

doses of everything.

Styling is entirely in keeping with current Honda themes, but combines two separate ideas: a "coupe-like" upper portion that suggests sportiness; and a wider, lower body "SUV-like" portion that suggests stability and strength.

Honda Canada's senior product planner, Hayato Mori, doesn't like the word "platform," because when we say the HR-V is based on the Fit platform, he says it sounds like "we stuck an HR-V body on the bottom of a Fit." Apparently, there was more to it than that.

One of its main features is a gas tank mounted in the centre of the vehicle, to allow a deeper rear cargo area. In fact, rear-seat-down cargo capacity at 1,665 litres rivals the capacities of some competitors' one-size-up "compact" crossovers. Those rear seats also fold together, and separately, to offer up five different and useful "modes."

Quite simply, it is the most versatile cargo-carrying vessel in the class. It swallows bikes and surfboards and small upright trees like a small, benevolent, metal whale.

HR-V is exclusively powered by the same 141-hp 1.8-litre "four" toiling away in the Civic. It can be mated to either the all-new CVT automatic, or a six-speed manual. The former works well and kicks down particularly quickly and smoothly. The latter is not as slick as I was expecting.

The HR-V can be had in both FWD and AWD.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Tesla to adopt China's standards

Electric-car maker Tesla will adopt China's future standard for charging electric vehicles, the company said, in an issue which has been a barrier to sales for the U.S. firm in the world's largest auto market.

Tesla's imported electric vehicles now use a plug based on the European standard, which is incompatible with the current Chinese standard, Tesla officials have said.

But Tesla has pledged to make its vehicles match China's charging standard, which is still under review, the company added.

"Tesla will also provide conversion devices for vehicles to realize perfect compatibility with the new standard," Tesla said in a statement.

China is now formulating its own standards for electric vehicles, including charging, the Ministry of Industry and



Supercharging with Tesla. TESLA

Information Technology said in September, but gave no timing.

"Solving the charging problem is the top priority in pro-

moting pure-electric cars," said Zhu Xiaotong, Tesla's general manager for the China region.

"Tesla will fully co-operate

on the development of the national standards and construction of public charging infrastructure," he added.

Despite early positive media coverage, the company has struggled in the Chinese market, building up an inventory of unsold cars and laying off staff.

"China is the only place on Earth where we have excess inventory," Tesla founder Elon Musk said earlier this year.

China's electric car market remains small for now.

Electric and hybrid vehicle sales in the country reached 26,581 in the first quarter of this year, three times the number from the year-ago period, but still accounting for less than 1 per cent of total sales, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

AFP



The Lightcycle appeared in Tron: Legacy. 2010 DISNEY PICTURES

AUCTION

Movie bike nets \$77,000

The futuristic Lightcycle, star of the film Tron: Legacy, has recently been sold through an auction by RM Sotheby's in North Worth, Tex., for \$77,000.

The anonymous buyer eclipsed the bike's estimated \$25,000 to \$40,000 selling price. The bike is a replica of the one Garrett Hedlund, the actor who played young Sam

Flynn in 2010's Tron: Legacy, rode on screen.

This replica, built post-production for the Andrews collection, works and rides normally.

The motorcycle is powered by an electric engine and operates on lithium-ion batteries. It also boasts an internal computer that controls the throttle, and has hydraulic brakes. AFP

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Starting From Price for
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with Performance Hood
shown: \$39,765.[‡]



Starting From Price for
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Crew Plus shown: \$34,490.[‡]

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Starting From Price
for 2015 Chrysler 200 C shown: \$29,790.[‡]



Starting From Price for
2015 Dodge Journey Crossover shown: \$31,785.[‡]

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Wise customers read the fine print: †, ‡, *, **, ††, †††, ~, \$ The Drive It Love It Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers between May 20 and June 1, 2015. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing includes freight (\$1,695), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. ‡\$10,500 in Total Discounts is available on new 2015 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of \$8,500 in Consumer Cash Discounts, \$1,500 in Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash and \$500 Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. †0% purchase financing for up to 36 months available on select new 2015 models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2015 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR)/2015 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of \$27,495/\$19,995 with a \$0 down payment, financed at 0% for 36 months equals 78 bi-weekly payments of \$353/\$256 with a cost of borrowing of \$0 and a total obligation of \$27,495/\$19,995. *\$500 Bonus Cash is available on select new 2014/2015 Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep or Ram models at participating retailers from May 20 to June 1, 2015. Bonus Cash will be deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price before taxes. Excludes 2014 Chrysler 200 LX, 2015 Chrysler 200, 2014 Dodge Avenger CVP, 2015 Jeep Renegade (all models), 2014/2015 Dodge Grand Caravan CVP, 2014/2015 Dodge Journey CVP and SE Plus, 2014/2015 Dodge Dart (all models), 2015 Dodge Charger SRT Hellcat, 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat, 2014/2015 Jeep Wrangler Sport, 2014/2015 Jeep Patriot (all models), 2014/2015 Jeep Compass Sport (select models), 2014/2015 Jeep Cherokee (all models), 2014/2015 Ram Cargo Van, 2014/2015 Ram 1500 Regular Cab, ProMaster City and all 2014/2015 FIAT models. Offer available at participating Atlantic and Ontario retailers only. See retailer for complete details and exclusions. **Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. *\$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2015 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab), 2014/2015 Ram 2500/3500, or 2014/2015 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before May 1, 2015. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed an Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Baumeier Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one \$1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. †3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on new select models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. 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See your retailer for complete details. ‡Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ‡Based on 2014 Ward's Lower Middle Sedan segmentation. Excludes other vehicles designed and manufactured by FCA US LLC. ~Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by FCA Canada Inc. *Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. **The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.



Cars fuelled Letterman's material

AUTO PILOT

Mike Goetz



It's getting awfully late for The Late Show with David Letterman. In fact there is precisely one show left, and it will be broadcast tonight at 11:30 p.m. ET.

After that, TV screens will not exactly go dark on weekdays at 11:30, but for David Letterman fans, yours truly included, it will seem a little darker than usual, at least during a suitable grieving period.

Dave's first late show, Late Night with David Letterman, debuted in 1982. Since then, the talk-show host has thrown watermelons off buildings, put on a Velcro suit and flung himself against a Velcro wall, and crushed various things in a hydraulic press.

Letterman is also a real "car guy," and wasn't shy about showing that side of himself on the show. Check out Dave's visit to Jerry Seinfeld's Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee, to hear Dave talk cars and watch Jerry drive one of Letterman's prized vehicle possessions — a 1995

Volvo 960 Wagon stuffed with a Ford V8 racing engine.

Born and raised in Indianapolis, Ind., and a big fan of Indy-car racing, Letterman routinely invited the Indy 500 race winner on the show, and then became involved in the sport, as a co-owner of the successful Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing team.

Canadian car enthusiasts can also be proud of how Letterman brought to prominence Richard "Dick" Assman, the gas station operator from Regina, Sask. Yes, we should be so proud, of how Dave referenced him continu-

ously on the show for about a month, and seemed unable to help himself to the wordplay comedy that was possible by just saying "Assman the Gasman."

So thanks Dave, for all that late-night comedy, automotive and otherwise. Here are some entries of Dave's famous Top 10 lists that had something to do with cars and/or driving:

Top 10 Things that Will Get You Kicked Out of Disney World

- Driving down Main Street USA

with Bambi's mother strapped to your fender

Top 10 Summer Jobs in Hell

- Human Axle, Raymond Burr's Town Car

Bigfoot's Top 10 Peeves

- Driver's licence photo makes him look like Gregg Allman

Top 10 Ways to Add Excitement to a Long Car Trip

- Play connect the dots with dead bugs on windshield

Top Ten Perks to Being

Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame

- Use of bullpen car for family vacations

John Gotti's Top 10 Tax Tips

- Guys who escape from the trunk of your car may be considered business losses

Top 10 Least

Popular Broadway Shows

- I'm Not Going to Pay a Lot for this Muffler: A Dramatic Reading by James Earl Jones

Top 10 Ways to Tell You're Possessed

- You don't have to use the rear-view mirror to look at the cars behind you

Top 10 Peeves of the Ghost of Elvis

- Ghost of Leonardo Da Vinci never really thanked me for the Cadillac I gave him

Top 10 Unsafe Toys

- Traffic Tag

The Easter Bunny's Top 10 Pet Peeves

- Having to cross I-95

Top 10 Ways Life would be Different if Dogs Ran the World

- All motorists must drive with their head out the car window

Top 10 Ways American Cars Would be Different if Ralph Nader Had Never Been Born

- Strobe headlights make oncoming traffic look like an old time movie

+ AUTOMOTIVE-INSPIRED LETTERMAN TOP TEN LISTS

Top 10 Least Popular Roadside Attractions

10. Geraldo-Land
9. Arena Football Hall of Fame
8. Stump Johnson's World of Angry Animals
7. World's Largest Spit Tank
6. Catch-Your-Own Wasp Ranch
5. Recreation of Vin Scully's boyhood home
4. One-eyed Elf Dodgeball Cage
3. You-Hit-It, We-Cook-It Roadkill Grill
2. The Enhanced Mitten
1. Giant Shirtless Santa Claus

Top 10 Rejected Model Names for Cars

10. Pontiac Cyst
9. Dodge Glove
8. Oldsmobile Beiruter
7. Nissan Spleen
6. Chevy Junta
5. Hyundai Accordion
4. Mazda Eczema 500
3. Dodge Johnson
2. Yugo Screw Yourself
1. Ford Gelding

David Letterman is retiring.

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More effort needed to create an easier transition to Canada

NEW CANADIANS

Government doesn't tell the hardships of immigration

JASON MENARD
For Metro

Coming to Canada can pose a variety of challenges. And while there are efforts in place to make the transition easier, there's more that could be done, according to Eric Katz, a regulated Canadian immigration consultant and managing director of Katz Consulting.

"The federal government doesn't do a great job of telling people the hardships they'll face after immigrating to Canada," Katz said.

"It's kind of candy-coated — one of the hardest things to do

is to integrate socially."

He pointed to the differences in educational equivalency as being a stumbling block.

"If you've got a Canadian kid who joins a bank with a B-Comm, they're going to work their way through. They may get sent somewhere, but they have a stream or a vision of where they're going to be once they get out of university," Katz said. "With someone coming from overseas without a Canadian, American, or British MBA, it's going to be stressful from the get-go."

The differences in society and our cultural dynamic are also challenging, Katz said.

"We're North American — coming from different areas, you may not be aware of the legal culture, or the business culture," he said. "If they're not coming from a democratic country, our level of freedom can be overwhelming."

"It can be so overwhelming

that some go back; but most stay."

Remi Lariviere, media relations with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, said the government is working to make transitions easier.

"The Government of Canada remains committed to helping new Canadians integrate and successfully participate in our economy and our communities," he said. "CIC's settlement program helps immigrants and refugees with their settlement and integration needs so they are able to contribute to Canada's labour market and their communities as quickly as possible."

"The settlement program funds projects that help immigrants overcome challenges related to accessing the labour market such as job-search skills, mentorship opportunities, knowledge of the Canadian workplace culture, and job-bridging programs. In addition,



Citizen and Immigration Canada has funded projects that help with job-search skills. SHUTTERSTOCK

language programming helps immigrants develop official language skills required for the labour market and life outside work and combines language acquisition with knowledge of Canadian civics and culture."

Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister, Chris Alexander, has announced that \$24 million will be committed toward expanding CIC's pre-arrival services to provide newcomers with greater access

to information and services before they leave their countries of origin.

In 2014-2015, CIC invested approximately \$600 million for federal settlement programming outside of Quebec.

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YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region

Which country contributes the most to population?

Canada's cultural mosaic is continually being rewoven and adjusted with new Canadians from all around the world who have chosen to make the Great White North their home. It's no surprise, then, that two of the world's most populous nations are the greatest contributors to the Canadian population.

The latest statistics provided by Citizenship and Immigration Canada come from 2013. In its listing of Permanent Residents by Source Country, the People's Republic of China has been atop (or close to the top of) the list since 2004. In 2013, 34,126

people came from the PRC, followed closely by India (33,085).

However, you may be surprised by the country that provided the most new Canadians for three of the last reported four years.

"For me, it's probably the Philippines who have the highest number of immigrants," explained Eric Katz, a regulated Canadian immigration consultant and managing director of Katz Consulting, based out of Ottawa.

"Usually we're stocked with clients from China or India, but the Philippines is a huge contributor."

And the numbers bear it out. In 2013, the Philippines accounted for 29,539 new Canadians — which was the third-highest self-reported country of origin. However, the Philippines, in fact, led the influx of immigrants to Canada in 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Rounding out the top five in 2013 were Pakistan (12,602) and Iran (11,291).

Consistently finding itself in the top seven are the United

States of America and the United Kingdom and its colonies. Some combination of France, Iraq, the Republic of Korea, Algeria, Nigeria, or Egypt tend to round out the top 10 over the past decade.

Analyzing the data, you can see there are peaks and valleys in immigration trends, which can usually be tied back to some sort of domestic strife. For example, the Republic of the Ivory Coast saw a marked increase of 61 per cent from 2011 to 2012 (with the level of immigration continuing in 2013).

Similarly, Balkan states like Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and Yugoslavia (all self-identified) peaked around 2006 and have seen a steady decline (even factoring in Republic of Serbia, Republic of Kosovo).

For Katz, the ability to converse in either of Canada's two official languages is a huge determining factor of immigration success.

"Unless you have an English degree, you're probably not going to pass the language equivalency," he said.

JASON MENARD/FOR METRO



A program called Express Entry helps select immigrants that have the best chance at success.

SHUTTERSTOCK

Educational equivalency remains a large obstacle

JASON MENARD
For Metro

When it comes to coming to Canada, not all degrees are created equally. As a result, educational equivalency can be one of the biggest hurdles for new Canadians during the immigration process.

"The educational equity is the hardest thing for new Canadians to deal with," Eric Katz, a regulated Canadian immigration consultant and managing director of Katz Consulting, said. "Basically there have been big changes in the programs this last year. Historically, when I started 20 years ago, all one had to do was show a bachelor's or an appropriate degree and the government would calculate it. Now a post-secondary degree has to be audited by an independent third party."

One of those third parties, he explained, is World Education Services. For a fee, you can get your non-Canadian degree audited to see how it matches up with a Canadian equivalent.

For Citizenship and Immigration Canada, it's all about helping to ensure that newcomers to Canada have the greatest opportunity for success.

Through a program called Express Entry, Citizenship and Immigration Canada states it is able to more easily identify those who are most likely to succeed economically in Canada instead of simply processing applications on a first-come, first-served basis.

"The government is taking steps to ensure that immigrants who come to Canada can be successful, integrate into Canadian society and the Canadian labour market, and put their skills to use. Educational credential assessments help CIC select im-

migrants with the best possible chances of success in Canada and supports program integrity by screening out applications with educational credentials that are found not to be authentic and/or have no equivalency to a completed Canadian credential," said Remi Lariviere, media relations with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. "By having their foreign educational credentials assessed before their arrival to Canada, foreign skilled workers have a better sense of how their education fits into the Canadian labour market, enabling them to make more informed choices about immigration and Canadian career paths."

Katz explained that immigrants coming from Commonwealth or French countries generally have a better time with educational equivalency — especially with the required English or French language tests.

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Nothing short of amazing

NHL PLAYOFFS

Top scorers proving once again that size isn't everything

The Stanley Cup playoffs can be a roller-coaster ride with climbs and drops, unpredictable twists and turns. But there's no sign that reads: "You must be this tall to ride."

If that existed, there'd be no room for Tyler Johnson of the Tampa Bay Lightning or Johnny Gaudreau of the Calgary Flames. Johnson is favourably listed at five-foot-eight and Gaudreau at five-foot-nine, yet they've been larger than life in this post-season.

Johnson, Gaudreau and even

sub-six-foot players like Patrick Kane of the Chicago Blackhawks, Sami Vatanen of the Anaheim Ducks, Brendan Gallagher of the Montreal Canadiens and Carl Hagelin of the New York Rangers are proving that the playoffs can be a small guy's game.

"You don't have to be 6-4. You don't have to be Corey Perry or Ryan Getzlaf," NHL director of hockey operations Colin Campbell said. "Talent comes in all sizes now."

With all due respect to Randy Newman, short people have plenty of reasons to live and thrive in hockey today. Stricter enforcement of penalties after the 2004-05 lockout brought more speed to the game and opened the ice for more little guys

than back when Theo Fleury broke the mould.

In 2010, 5-8 Danny Briere, then of the Philadelphia Flyers, led the playoffs in scoring. In 2011, 5-8 Martin St. Louis and 5-9 Brad Marchand of the Boston Bruins were among the leaders.

Three of the playoffs' top five scorers in these playoffs are under six feet: Johnson, Kane and Lightning winger Nikita Kucherov.

"The one thing about smaller guys, bigger players always have to play themselves off teams," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "Smaller players always have to play themselves on teams. As a smaller player, I believe you have to set yourself apart in some aspect.

You have to be better than

everybody else."

Johnson has been precisely that with a playoff-best 11 goals and 16 points. Gaudreau led the Flames in playoff scoring to cap

off an impressive rookie season.

Size isn't on Johnson's mind, nor is being passed over in three different NHL drafts when 632 other players got picked. But the 24-year-old recognizes hockey's changing landscape.

"It's just one of those things that the smaller guys, even Marty St. Louis, kind of

opened doors for the smaller guys to get into the league," Johnson said.

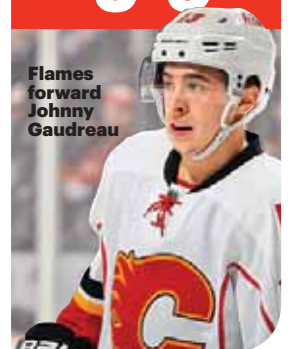
"You see guys growing up that have the size and kind of the pedigree and everything. A lot of those guys aren't playing any more. I just always had to work hard."

Asked last round what stood out about Johnson, Tampa Bay teammate Jason Garrison quipped: "Other than he's short?" When he stopped smiling he explained that while Johnson may be short in stature, he's long on work ethic.

But Johnson and Gaudreau

5-9

Flames forward Johnny Gaudreau



didn't get to NHL stardom just from the chip on their shoulders about their height or even long hours on the ice. They're superbly talented, too, and that's in display in the playoff spotlight.

"You look at a Gaudreau, his hockey sense is off the charts, better than most. That's why he survives," Cooper said. "Tyler Johnson, his speed, his competitiveness. That's what sets these guys apart."

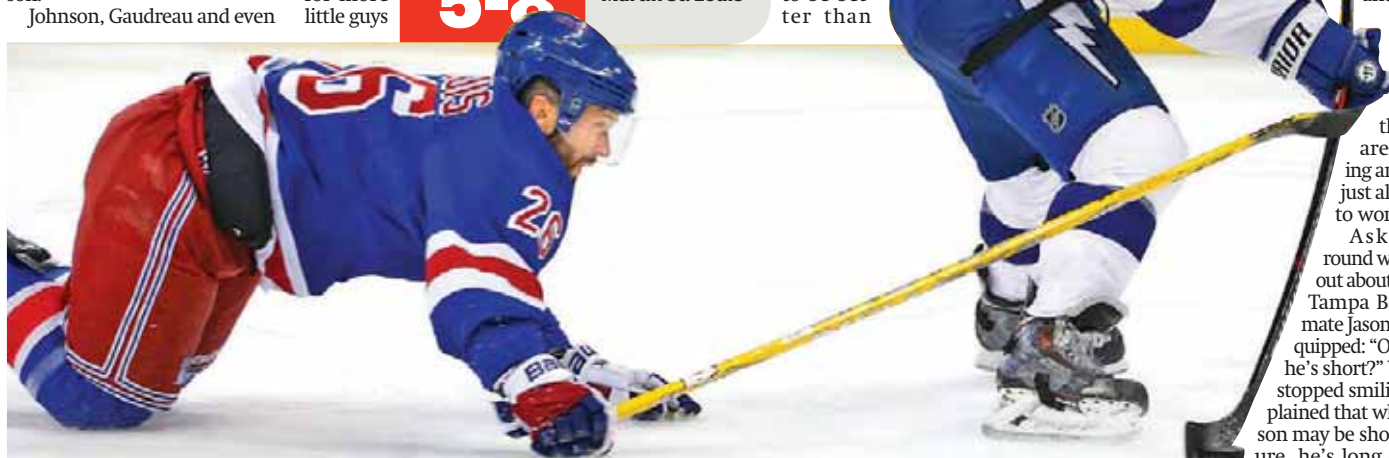
Campbell is proud of how much value is on speed and skill nowadays with coaches, general managers and scouts saying, "If you can't skate, you can't play." That's even true in the playoffs, where the physicality ramps up and defences clamp down.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Game 2 of the Blackhawks-Ducks series on Tuesday night.

5-8

Rangers forward Martin St. Louis



Martin St. Louis, left, could do little to stop fellow small dude Tyler Johnson in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference final on Monday night. Johnson had a hat trick in the Lightning's 6-2 win and leads playoff scoring with 16 points. KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COACHING DECISION

Oilers get their man in McLellan

Todd McLellan said he saw something in Taylor Hall and Jordan Eberle at the recent world hockey championship.

And when he became head coach of the Edmonton Oilers on Tuesday, he pointed to the promise of those young players as a big part of his decision.

The Oilers made the announcement two days after McLellan coached Canada — including Hall and Eberle — to gold at the world championship in Prague.



Todd McLellan THE CANADIAN PRESS

McLellan appeared to be Edmonton's top target since Peter Chiarelli took over as general manager earlier this month. After the Oilers won the draft lottery for the right to select Connor McDavid, Chiarelli met with McLellan in Prague and hammered out a deal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Babcock in talks with Sabres, source says

Though a deal was not completed, Detroit Red Wings coach Mike Babcock had negotiations with the Buffalo Sabres on Tuesday regarding the possibility of becoming their next head coach.

The talks took place between Babcock and Sabres general manager Tim Murray and began early in the day, a person familiar with discussions said. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pats owner backs off appeal

Now that Patriots owner Robert Kraft is not appealing his team's punishments in the deflated footballs scandal, only his quarterback's challenge remains.

Moments after Kraft said Tuesday he won't oppose the \$1 million fine and loss of two draft choices the NFL penalized the team for its role in using underinflated footballs in the AFC championship game, the players' union reasserted that Tom Brady's appeal will go forward. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

MLSE head strikes Argos deal: Source

The Toronto Argonauts have found a new home and owner.

Two league sources confirmed Tuesday the CFL team has been sold to Bell and MLSE chairman Larry Tanenbaum. The official announcement will be made Wednesday.

The sources say the deal also includes a lease agreement for the Argos to begin play at BMO Field as early as next season. That's pending renovations needed to accommodate the CFL field but they're expected to be com-



Larry Tanenbaum TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

pleted in time for the football franchise to play at the lakefront stadium in 2016.

The Argos will play this season at Rogers Centre. Their lease there is to expire after the 2017 campaign although they have the option of leaving earlier if they find a new venue. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Eugene Melnyk, seen here in October 2011, underwent successful liver transplant surgery on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

IN TORONTO

Melnyk transplant a success, Sens say

Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk underwent a successful liver transplant, the team announced Tuesday night.

The Senators said Melnyk and the anonymous donor are doing well and resting comfortably at Toronto General Hospital.

The team announced last week that Melnyk was in need of a live liver transplant and put 12 people through a screen-

ing process.

Melnyk went into surgery at noon Eastern time, and it was completed at 8:05 p.m., the Senators said.

The Senators said there would be no further update Tuesday night but that the University Health Network's Multi-Organ Transplant Program will update Melnyk and the donor's progress later this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS 500

Hinchcliffe out of racing indefinitely

Ruled out of racing for the foreseeable future, IndyCar driver James Hinchcliffe thanked the "heroes" who helped him after his frightening crash at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

There was never any doubt that Monday's accident was serious: Hinchcliffe was taken immediately to a local hospital for surgery on his left thigh

The Associated Press his leg had been pierced by the car's right front rocker.

The surgery at Indiana University Methodist Hospital was needed to stop massive bleeding and his doctor said Monday that the accident had left the popular Canadian in critical condition.

"He's stable and improving," said Dr. Timothy Pohlman, who performed the surgery at Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital. "His condition was critical upon his arrival and I think the IndyCar system as a whole needs to be commended for how well they can take care of drivers in this situation."

"Words can't describe how thankful I am" to the on-track Holmatro safety team, Hinchcliffe said in a statement released by IndyCar. "Those guys, in addition to the doctors and staff at the hospital, are my heroes."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



James Hinchcliffe last June in Houston. GETTY IMAGES



Blue Jays catcher Russell Martin, left, and relief pitcher Roberto Osuna celebrate after the final out of a win over the Red Sox earlier this month in Toronto. RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'No worries' for Blue Jays' red-hot rookie

MLB

Mexico's Osuna taking well to life in the bullpen

Roberto Osuna has of late been wearing a fan-designed T-shirt every day during his pre-game workouts. The shirt reads: "Osuna Matata: It means no worries for the rest of the game."

The 20-year-old rookie, who was born a year after The Lion King hit theatres, admits he didn't understand the reference at first — "(Steve) Delabar explained it to me" — but through the early part of this season its message has rung true.

Though the Jays' bullpen has struggled overall, Osuna, who

prior to this season had never pitched above Class A, has been the team's most reliable reliever, allowing just a pair of runs over his 21 innings. The Mexican right-hander's stingy 0.86 ERA ranks fourth among American League relievers with at least 15 innings pitched this season.

Osuna put up another zero on Monday afternoon, allowing an inherited runner to score in the sixth, but shutting the door in the seventh to earn his first career win. "I think I've got good luck, man," he told Torstar News Service recently regarding his early-season success. "I hope to keep doing what I'm doing."

Osuna freely admits to being surprised by how well he has pitched. "Of course. When I made the team I thought I'd be a low reliever, probably wouldn't

"I hope to keep doing what I'm doing."

Roberto Osuna

throw too much," he said. "But now I got, like, 20 innings. I'm throwing in the seventh and eighth innings — it's great."

A starter throughout his minor-league career, Osuna said he has enjoyed his transition to the bullpen, which suits his eager personality. "I really like it. I like being ready every day."

Despite a similar lack of experience, Osuna has yet to encounter any of the hiccups of his compadre, Miguel Castro, who was demoted to Triple-A Buffalo earlier this month after his early-season struggles

started to snowball.

The pair were attached at the hip throughout spring training and during the first month of the season, but Osuna said he has not spoken to Castro at all since he was sent down. "I hope he's doing well, but I haven't talked to him."

That's not uncommon in the singularly focused big leagues, where those who are injured, traded or demoted are quickly forgotten, their lockers cleaned out before anyone even notices they're gone.

"We are friends, but we're different," Osuna says. "Everyone's trying to make it through, so I'm here and I'm trying to do my best. I'm focused on the big leagues right now and trying to help the team win. That's it. Anything else I don't pay too much attention."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Prep time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

- 3 oz smoked salmon
- ½ cup goat cheese
- 3 Tbsp low-fat yogurt
- 1 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 4 tsp chopped fresh dill
- 24 slices cucumber (¼ inch thick)

Directions

1. Combine the goat cheese, yogurt and lemon juice until

smooth, using a food processor or by hand.

2. Dice the smoked salmon and set aside 24 small bits for garnish. Add the remaining salmon and the dill to the yogurt-cheese mixture.

3. Divide the mixture evenly among the cucumber slices. Garnish with the reserved salmon bits.

Nutrition per cucumber slice (recipe serves 6)

- Calories 14
- Protein 1 g
- Carbohydrates 0 g
- Fibre 0 g
- Total fat 1 g
- Saturated fat 0.1 g
- Cholesterol 4 mg
- Sodium 66 mg
- Fiber 0 g

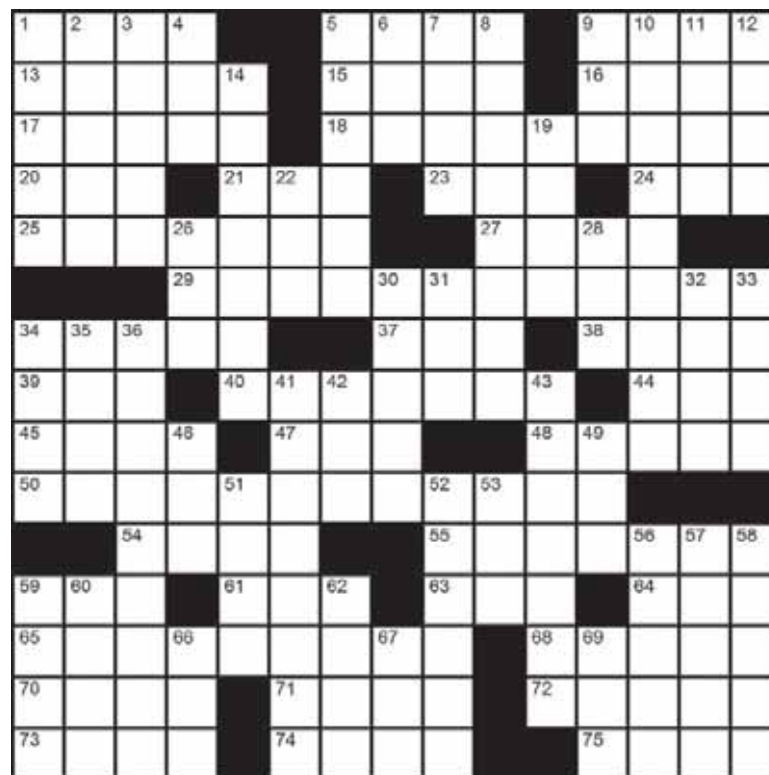
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Earthen pot type
5. Foreboding
9. Quebec city on the Saguenay River
13. Montreal-born actress, Tara Spencer-
15. Writer, wee-ly
16. Envisioned
17. Little Richard's "Frutti"
18. Mine (Nickel mine in Sudbury)
20. " _ _ you sure?"
21. " _ _ need to talk to you." ...said the agent to Mr. Pacino
23. Ms. West
24. Deuce
25. Ideal model
27. Alaskan city
29. "The _ _" (APTN show on which a panel of comedians discuss current events with host Michael Hutchinson)
34. Scrooge
37. Tokyo, once
38. Captain Hook's sidekick
39. Suffix meaning 'Sort of'
40. They speak louder than words
44. High sch. math
45. Mix
47. Promos
48. Cheryl of "Curb You Enthusiasm"
50. Places to pick up milk, the paper, 6/49 tickets, etc.: 2 wds.
54. Norse epic
55. Northern flights provider headquar-



- tered in Thompson, Manitoba: 2 wds.
59. Unwell
61. " _ _ Mine" by The Beatles
63. Increase
64. TV brand
65. Settlers of The New World
68. Elliptical path

70. Above
71. Behind
72. Beatles 'Revolver' song: "For _ _"
73. Cozy retreat
74. Punt
75. Energy units

DOWN

1. Available for pour-

- ing: 2 wds.
2. Ex-Pres. Bush's wife
3. Less heavy, in diet food advertisements
4. Auction ware
5. Veneer
6. France's li'l locale

7. "Up and _ _!" (Rise and shine!)
8. Welsh goddess sharing the name of a Fleetwood Mac hit
9. Strong wood
10. Big name departing late night TV tonight
11. Feline's utter-

- ance
12. Latin 'year'
14. _ _ Falls, Ontario
19. Cartography subj.
22. " _ Grant"
26. Brewery brew
28. Docs
30. Art gallery crime
31. Oath-taker's words
32. River to the Ubangi
33. Ms. Tilly's
34. Filing cabinet abbr.
35. "That's all there _ _ it!"
36. "Mama Said": 1961 hit for The _
41. Chocolate bar with a 'Secret' sealed in a Toronto vault
42. QB's feats
43. Character on "The Big Bang Theory"
46. Circular, curtly
49. Doctrine
51. Mag gig, _ _ -Chief
52. Ric of The Cars
53. "Way cool."
56. Ann _ , Michigan
57. _ _ on the cake
58. Appraises
59. Computer graphic
60. Theme of many songs
62. Mr. Morales
66. Bit of food
67. Transport for T.O. commuters
69. _ _ v. Wade

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries March 21 - April 20

Can you tell fact from fiction? When confronted with two sets of figures today you must not just assume that what the experts tell you is right. Use your powers of logic to cut through the hype.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21

If there is something you have left unfinished, then get on with it today and get it out of the way once and for all. When the Sun leaves your birth sign tomorrow you will have more important things to worry about , so do it now.

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21

The Sun moves into your birth sign tomorrow and if you are smart you will spend the next 12 to 24 hours tying up loose ends. After that it's all systems go.

♋ Cancer June 22 - July 23

You have nothing to be worried about and everything to look forward to over the next few days and you need to keep reminding yourself of that fact. The Sun's change of signs tomorrow will challenge you to always be positive.

♌ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23

You will be putting yourself about over the next two or three days, especially on the work front where you can sense that the present confusion and chaos will give rise to new opportunities.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

As the Sun crosses the career angle of your chart tomorrow the next two or three days are going to be extremely important for your ambitions. If ever there was a time to set your sights higher that time is now. Be the best.

♎ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Put your worries behind you and let a big smile spread across your face. Once the Sun moves into your fellow Air sign of Gemini tomorrow there will be no holding you back — it will be love and laughs all the way.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Partnerships won't be so intense as from this evening, which is good, but that does not mean you can ignore them altogether. In fact, joint financial ventures are still hugely important, so make sure you know what others are doing with your money!

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You are about to enter a more positive phase but that does not mean you can do as you please. The Sun's entry into your opposite sign tomorrow is a boost but it is also an invitation to

work more closely with partners.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Over the next few days you will need to get a bit more serious about your work and your wellbeing. Not that there's anything to worry about but you do need to pace yourself better.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

One of the best times of the year is about to begin and when the Sun changes signs tomorrow there will be no stopping you. Just remember to pause and enjoy the moment once in a while. Live in the present.

♓ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20

Whatever new chores and duties come your way over the next few days you can still have fun. Loved ones will go out of their way to make life enjoyable for you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



Difficulty Level ★★

5/28



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